

Enroll 10,000 In Sunday School!

March In Mississippi Will Have Five Fab days

By Judd Allen, Consultant,
Mississippi Sunday School Department

Mississippi Baptists are dedicated to enrolling more than 10,000 new members in Sunday School during March. This effort is designated Five Fabulous Sundays in March.

"The effectiveness of Five Fabulous Sundays in March in Mississippi Sunday School and church leadership to enroll new members. I strongly encourage pastors and Sunday School directors to give this five Sunday new member emphasis a high priority to developing a growth image," said Bryant M. Cummings, director, Sunday School department, Mississippi

Baptist Convention Board.

Letters and brochures concerning Five Fabulous Sundays in March are being sent to pastors, educational directors, other church staff members, church Sunday School directors, and associational Sunday School directors.

Three phases of the Five Fabulous Sundays in March are presented in the brochure. The first phase promotes attendance, with the fifth (5th) Sunday

of the Five Fabulous Sundays as High Attendance Day. This lends itself to a discovery of prospects with new people in Bible study. Each department and class should be urged to set attendance goals for each Sunday.

In phase two use these Five Fabulous Sundays to major on and emphasize enrollment. Adopt the "Open Enrollment" program whereby you enroll anyone, anytime, anywhere.

anywhere, as long as he or she agrees to be enrolled.

The third phase calls for reporting number of new members on a statewide basis each week for a progress report in the Baptist Record.

Churches are to report number of new enrollees Monday to association office. Report by 10 a.m. so that the associational offices may be contacted between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. by state

Sunday School Department.

Cummings explained, "that the Five Fabulous Sundays in March can help a church to increase attendance, create enthusiasm, prepare spiritually, attain high attendance goals, heighten pupil interest, enroll more people in Bible study, discover prospects and involve more people in reaching other persons for Bible study and for Christ."

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WMU Convention Will Meet March 17-19 In Laurel

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union will meet in annual session March 17-19 at First Baptist Church, Laurel.



Allen, Tuesday afternoon, and Wednesday morning.
Earl Kelly, executive secretary-



Compere



Kelly

treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, will be a principal speaker Monday evening. Mrs. Lee N. Allen, assistant to the executive director, WMU, SBC, will participate in all the sessions.

W. L. Compere, former president of Clarke College, now retired, and Hugh Tobias, both of Newton, will conclude each of the sessions with a dramatic dialogue based on the gospel of Mark. Tobias teaches Bible at Clarke.

Music evangelists, R. L. and Beth Sigrest, of Yazoo City, will direct the convention music.

Home missionaries and furloughing foreign missionaries will give reports of their work during each session, as will women from across the state who have participated in short-term mission projects.

Featured during the convention will be a banquet for members of Baptist Young Women on Monday evening at 5:30. Also, the Tuesday night session will be given over to a missions fair, with various missions-related activities being available for all ages.

Parents of Mississippi missionaries will be honored on Tuesday morning and at a luncheon immediately following the session.

Mrs. Vincent Scoper, Jr., of Laurel, is local chairman for the conven-

tion. Working with her are women from her church, Jones Association, and District 2 Woman's Missionary Union.

Officers of the state WMU are Mrs. Robert Dent, Holly Springs, president; Mrs. Charles Tyler, Collins, vice president; Mrs. Eleanor Burt, Philadelphia, recording secretary; and Mrs. G. W. Smith, Louisville, associate recording secretary. Marjean Patterson, Clinton, is executive director.

Week of Prayer Will Proclaim, "We Cannot Keep From Telling"

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The 1980 Week of Prayer for Home Missions, featuring the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, will be observed March 2-9 in Southern Baptist churches.

Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, has set a national goal of \$15.5 million for the offering. The theme of the Week of Prayer is "We Cannot Keep From Telling." The theme is based on Acts 4:18-20.

William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, said that receipts for the 1979 offering already have set a record. The sum Tanner reported to the WMU Executive Board on January 17 was \$14,171,637.82, which is an increase of 15.4 percent over the previous year.

Tanner called the response of Baptist people to the offering "a remarkable outlet of missions giving and concern."

"It certainly represents sacrificial giving," Tanner said.

"Southern Baptists are giving more of their real income to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering."

"The message I get from this is that our membership is committed to Bold Mission Thrust."

Sophia Sutton Founders Day Is Feb. 19

S. L. Richmond, director of Sophia Sutton Assembly at Prentiss, will preside over Founder's Day at the assembly, Feb. 19.

The program which begins at 10:30 a.m. and continues to 4 p.m., will include speeches by Edgar Freeman, president of the Sunday School Congress of Christian Education, Kansas City, Kans.; National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; Richard Brogan, pres-

(Continued on Page 3)

Bold Mission Thrust is the plan of Southern Baptists to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person by the year 2000. Bold Mission depends on increasing the number of Baptists involved in missions on both the career and volunteer basis.

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, expects that the upcoming offering will exceed its goal. "The offering is vital, but the educational and prayer support value is even more important," she said.

Miss Weatherford said that the Week of Prayer introduces children in the churches to missionaries and God's purpose in missions.

"The doubled missionary force by the year 2000 is now children growing up in our churches," Miss Weatherford said. "These children need to know what a missionary is in order to recognize God's call to be a missionary."

Miss Weatherford said that "WMU has couched the offering in what we feel is the best way, a Week of Prayer."

The theme for the 1980 Week of Prayer for Home Missions is keyed to evangelism, one of the main arteries in the Home Mission Board plan to evangelize and congregationalize the United States.

What Kind of Moon, Jessica?

Jessica, five-year-old granddaughter of Callie B. Young of Pontotoc, was a flower girl in her cousin's wedding. When she returned home from the church she told her other grandmother, in very exciting terms, all about the wedding.

"And then," she ended her narrative, "Belinda and Randy got in a car and went to a motel for their 'Lottie Moon.'"

SBC Giving Soars In January

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Giving to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program in January topped the all-time record for giving in one month, according to figures released by the SBC Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee received and disbursed \$6,488,452 in Cooperative Program receipts channeled by SBC churches through state Baptist conventions. That figure topped by 8.1 percent of the \$6,002,367 given in January 1979, the previous record month.

The undesignated Cooperative Program receipts, along with another \$6,944,223 in designated contributions, brought total giving in January to \$13,432,675, up 6.67 percent over January 1979.

Total giving for national SBC causes through the first four months of the 1979-80 fiscal year, through Jan. 31, amounted to \$32,204,656, up 12.01 percent over the same period last year.

The total giving includes \$23,089,970 in Cooperative Program receipts, up 12.41 percent, and \$9,114,686 in designated receipts, up 11 percent.

March 1 Is Opening Date For Gulfshore Reservations

Summer conferences at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly are scheduled and being planned right now. Now is also the time for Baptists to make plans to attend conferences for either leader training or just for inspiration and fellowship.

A complete listing of the conferences to be offered this summer is printed on page 3.

Those planning to attend a session at Gulfshore need to know a few things. For instance, all conferences to be attended require reservations. These reservations must be in writing and mailed to the assembly at: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571.

Earliest date Gulfshore will accept reservations is March 1 for in-state individuals and groups, and April 1 for out-of-staters. Reservations postmarked before these dates will be returned. No reservations will be accepted via telephone.

All housing reservation requests need to be accompanied by a deposit of \$15 per person age two and above. Cancellations received 30 days or less before the conference date will receive no deposit refund. Cancellations 31-60 days prior to date of conference get half the deposit back. And those need-

ing to cancel 61 days or more prior to the conference date will receive all of the deposit back.

Reservations will be confirmed by letter from Gulfshore after receiving deposits and the following information: type of accommodation desired, whether a family, individual, or group, number of males and females, exact ages of children, week or days of desired occupancy, church or name, and amount enclosed with request.

A final list of names should be sent to Gulfshore 30 days prior to a group's arrival. Names may be substituted on arrival, but to assure proper space allocations, substitute the same sex.

A commuter fee of \$1.25 will be charged to anyone participating in more than one day's activity. Meals can be purchased weekly or individually.

Gulfshore requires churches to send adult (21 or over) with groups of youths. One counselor (of the same sex) is necessary for each seven or fewer boys or girls.

This year recreational vehicle sites are available at \$5 per night. The 10 sites require a \$5 deposit with reservations. The fee includes electrical, water, and sewer hookups. Plus there will

(Continued on Page 3)

Refugee Work Receives Funds

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — During the last three months of 1979, Southern Baptists sent 1,600 donations totaling more than \$277,000 for Cambodian refugees to the Foreign Mission Board.

Contributions for the refugees began in October, when the largest wave of Cambodians thus far entered Thailand and their plight was headline news across the United States.

Since then Southern Baptist missionaries and three volunteer medical teams have used money designated for refugee relief as they worked to feed and care for refugees in two of the camps. The board appropriated a total of \$610,000 in 1979 for Cambodian re-

fugee relief.

John R. Cheyne, associate consultant for relief ministries, said Southern Baptists who wish to assist in relief ministries are encouraged to make designated gifts through their local churches, above regular tithes and offerings. Churches will channel such gifts to the Foreign Mission Board through state Baptist convention offices.

The number of contributions in January dropped some, but Cheyne said he hopes that Southern Baptists will remember that refugees continue to need assistance.



Ruth Anderson will use her secretarial skills in mission work.

Interfaith Witness Conferences Are Scheduled Around The State

Interfaith Witness Awareness Conferences are taking place this winter in various Baptist associations around the state. Among those scheduling conferences are Smith, Chickasaw, Calhoun, and Monroe associations.

Topics for discussion in the various meetings include Unification Church, Church of Christ/Pentecostalism, World Wide Church of God, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and Eastern Religions.

The Smith association meetings will

take place on the evenings of Feb. 17-18, at 7 p.m., meeting at Union Baptist Church, Mize.

Chickasaw association will have two noon meetings on Feb. 19 and on Feb. 21. The Feb. 19 meeting will take place at Parkway Baptist Church, Houston. And the Feb. 21 meeting will be at First

Baptist Church, Okolona.

Calhoun association offers two meetings, one on Feb. 19 at First Baptist Church, Calhoun City, at 7 p.m., and one noon meeting, Feb. 20, at First Baptist Church, Bruce.

Monroe association will have two

(Continued on Page 3)

Louisville Widow To Leave Next Week For Costa Rica

By Tim Nicholas

Mrs. Ruth R. Anderson, who has traveled worldwide and never belonged to any other church but First Baptist, Louisville, is leaving next week for mission work in Costa Rica.

Widow of druggist, A. Q. Anderson, Mrs. Anderson volunteered for the mission work after attending Foreign Missions Week at Ridgecrest last summer. She went forward to declare her willingness to serve in missions during a service there.

The seed had been planted earlier when a cousin, Dorothy McCool Edwards of West Point said she should use her secretarial skills in mission work. Also, last March at the Woman's Missionary Union convention, a 67-year-old woman gave her testimony about her volunteer work as a teacher in South America. That negated any

excuse she might give for not volunteering because of age.

Then during Foreign Missions Week, she attended a conference on laymen overseas where James Cecil of the FMB told conferees that the FMB really needed secretaries.

"I did a lot of praying and thinking before I sent in my application," said Mrs. Anderson. She decided to volunteer for six months and "if I felt the Lord leading me to stay," she would "re-enlist" for longer service.

Mrs. Anderson, now 62, has retired twice — once from the Federal Land Bank at Starkville, and more recently as legal secretary for Hathorn and Hathorn, attorneys at law.

Mrs. Anderson will be working with missionary, The Warrington, and can be reached at Apartado 4035, San Jose, Costa Rica.

Bold Mission Thrust

Giving

Foreign Missions Battered By Inflation, Devaluation

By Jim Newton
MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — A devastating combination of overseas inflation and devaluation of the dollar is threatening to squeeze the financial life blood out of Southern Baptist foreign missions.

That combination, plus a lack of "bold giving" by Southern Baptists, is also jeopardizing the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust plan to share the gospel with every person on the earth by the year 2000.

While Americans have been staggered by an inflation rate of almost 13 percent during 1979, astronomical inflation levels overseas have created financial havoc for many SBC foreign missions projects.

The problem is so critical it prompted R. Keith Parks, the new executive director of the Foreign Mission Board, to tell Birmingham pastors re-

cently that Bold Mission Thrust will not succeed if the present trends continue.

"We're not going to get there at the rate we are going," Parks said frankly. "Last year, (Cooperative Program) gifts increased 7.8 percent, but worldwide inflation, compounded by the dollar devaluation overseas, averaged 27 percent." Therefore, Parks said, Southern Baptists have lost "approximately 20 percent in buying power worldwide" in just one year.

"I'm convinced that Southern Baptists will respond if they have the facts," Parks said in an interview. "I don't believe Southern Baptists want to draw back during a time when we are on the verge of what I believe is our greatest breakthrough."

Parks observed that most Americans seem to be so caught up in their own inflation problems that they are

not aware of what is happening in the rest of the world.

"We stagger under 13 percent annual inflation here, when several countries have 30 to 40 percent inflation," he said. The annual inflation rate in Argentina, believed to be the highest in the world currently, is about 180 percent.

Marvin West, an international banker, calculated on a computer the inflation rate for the past 10 years (1968-78 figures) for 15 countries. The figures showed the United States recorded an inflation rate of 87.6 percent during that 10-year period. In contrast, Chile, with the worst inflation rate over the 10-year span, had an unbelievable inflation level of 399,152 percent.

Spiraling inflation has caused some missionaries to change their eating

(Continued on Page 5)

Going

Meetings Set To Involve Laymen in Bold Missions

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The minds of almost 200 key laymen in the Southern Baptist Convention will be tapped during the next four months for ideas on how to involve the laity in the denomination's plan to share the gospel with the world by the year 2000.

At the request of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, the Brotherhood Commission has arranged two-day meetings in 10 cities across the United States to gather the suggestions about Bold Mission Thrust.

James H. Smith, the commission's executive director, said the meetings will be held on April 4-5 in Memphis; April 18-19, Dallas; May 2-3, Raleigh; May 9-10, Lake Yale Baptist Assembly near Orlando; May 16-17, Indianapolis and Reno; and May 23-24, Atlanta, Washington, New Orleans and Kansas City.

Attending each meeting with the 15 to 20 laymen will be a member of "Laymen Concerned for Bold Mission Thrust," a state Baptist executive secretary, a state Brotherhood leader, a layman on the SBC Executive Committee, and a Brotherhood Commission trustee and staff member who will convene sessions.

The series of meetings grew out of a request a year ago to the Executive Committee by Laymen Concerned About Bold Mission Thrust, an organization of wealthy Baptist laymen. They expressed concern about using their talents more profitably in sharing their faith during the next 20 years.

Emphasizing that attendance at the meetings is by invitation, Smith said he expects to make a progress report to the SBC Executive Committee in June and a final report to the same group in September.

"We hope to use these meetings to help locate many men of unusual skills who are willing to be used by associations, state Baptist conventions, and SBC agencies on a consultation or advisory basis," Smith said.

Other subjects the groups are expected to discuss include ways to secure sponsors for Mission Service Corps volunteers, how to communicate the denomination's witnessing plan to the churches, and how to motivate pastors and church members to see the emphasis as a local church program.

Planning the meetings, including desired outcomes and format, were Donald Gent of Indianapolis and George McCotter of Lillington, N.C., two lay members of the Executive Committee; J. T. Williams, a developer for Tallahassee, Fla., and Fred Roach, president of Centennial Homes, Dallas; and four members of the commission staff.

Growing

Bold Mission Support System

Tops Seminary Extension Plans

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A new curriculum system designed to support Bold Mission Thrust, a credit plan for clinical pastoral orientation courses, and long-range objectives through 1985 were among items approved in the annual meetings of the

Seminary Extension curriculum and administrative committees here.

The first course in the Bold Mission Support System will be one on "church planting," developed in cooperation with the church extension department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission

Board. It will be used especially to help train bivocational ministers in establishing and serving new churches.

"This new curriculum system will allow the Seminary Extension Department to respond to requests for courses that do not fit into our three existing systems," said Raymond M. Rigdon, SED director. "Bold Mission Thrust calls for some fresh approaches, and we are pleased that we will be able to work with church extension and other programs that need special training resources."

Clinical training in pastoral counseling now may be credited toward one of Seminary Extension's diplomas or certificates when students meet certain conditions. If taken in a regular clinical pastoral education (CPE) program, the training may earn up to three SE units. If taken for a shorter period of time and under sponsorship of an individual extension center, the work must be supervised by a person certified by either the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education or the College of Chaplains of the American Hospital Association. The shorter,

Library Officers Plan Fall Workshop

Officers of the Mississippi Baptist Church Library Organization met January 19 in the library at First Church, Louisville, to plan the program for the 1980 fall workshop. The workshop will be held at First Church, Greenville, Oct. 24 and 25. Those who met in Louisville were, front row, left to right: Mrs. Clyde Day, McComb, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Charles Stanford, Greenville, vice-president; Mrs. C. H. Wood, Louisville, president; second row: Mrs. A. M. Jordan, Jackson, program chairman; Mrs. Eugene Fitts, Corinth, historian; Mrs. Robert Lewis, Columbus, president of the organization last year; back row: Mose Dangerfield, Jackson consultant, Sunday School department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The Sunday School department is a sponsor of the organization. Mrs. W. D. McWilliams, Clinton, Baptist Record editorial associate, publicity chairman for the organization, was taking the picture.

Executive Board Wants 'To Get WMU Organized In Every Church'

By Catherine Allen
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Getting Woman's Missionary Union organized in every church and getting "a bigger pie" for mission support were the two dominant concerns of the annual meeting for promotion of the executive board of WMU, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

After a pointed challenge from Carolyn Weatherford, WMU executive director, the board agreed to fund a nationwide WMU enlargement strategy developed jointly with state WMUs. Amount of the fund and scope of the plan were not revealed, pending further consultation between the annual and state WMU offices.

Informal discussions indicated that the plan will begin with a study to determine why 44 percent of churches report no organized WMU, will involve a special national corps of organizers and consultants, and will continue through 1983.

Nothing short of a national thrust toward enlargement will make a dent in the tremendous job to be done," Miss Weatherford said. "This strategy is not to take the place of various state plans now on the drawing board. But we will have to work together from a national perspective to get a warm body into contact with every church having no WMU."

Miss Weatherford commended South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland, in which more than 75 percent of the churches have a WMU organization. But she reminded the audience of state WMU leaders that some of their states reported only 50 percent of churches with WMU.

She and other speakers during the week-long meeting in Birmingham stressed that WMU is needed in every church to develop personnel, prayer support and financial backing for Bold Mission Thrust. Bold Mission Thrust is the SBC's plan for proclaiming the

Christian message to every person on earth by the year 2000. WMU leaders say the plan cannot get past the slogan stage without major changes in personal involvement in missions.

"Every missionary whom we will appoint by 2000 has already been born," Miss Weatherford said. "These children are in our churches waiting to be nurtured in missions concepts."

"WMU is still the lead organization in promoting mission support," Miss Weatherford said. She referred to WMU's success in sponsoring the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, each of which provides more than half the income for the respective program of missions.

"We have chosen to couch these in weeks of prayer, which we think is best. We do not divorce money from other forms of support — prayer and personnel — which are also essential," she said.

The WMU executive board voted to extend its "Life-Changing Commitments" emphasis for a third year. The emphasis on changing personal materialism toward a new involvement in missions is the key thread through plans adopted for WMU in 1981-82. The board exhaustively debated a document of nearly 500 pages detailing WMU's Life-Changing Commitments strategy for that year.

"This is an audacious emphasis," Miss Weatherford told the board. "We began it this year in the face of a national attitude of 'me first.' It has drawn a more immediate, appreciative response than I had expected."

Later in the week, R. Keith Parks made his first appearance before the WMU leaders since taking office as executive director of the SBC Foreign Mission Board. He echoed concern for WMU effectiveness in the face of need for new levels of mission support.

"You are humanly responsible for more dollars and prayer power supporting foreign missions than anybody else," Parks told the women.

He promised to provide more specific input for WMU's prayer programs and challenged WMU to pray on

Price, Morris To Lead In Rec Week

NASHVILLE — Nelson Lynn Price will be the worship leader at the church recreation conference, May 31-June 6, at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C.

Price has served as pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., since 1965. He is the former pastor of Oak Park Baptist Church, New Orleans, La.

Ty Morris, minister of music and youth, Crestview Baptist Church, Midland, Texas, will be the music leader. Leading the daily Bible studies will be John Hendrix, design and planning coordinator of the church training department, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

The youth attending the week will be participating in the youth camp curriculum entitled, "Glory." The guide revolves around a Bible study of self-discovery including the discovery of personal gifts.

That is a good book, it seems to me, which is opened with expectation and closed with profit. — Louisa May Alcott

a constant basis. He echoed Miss Weatherford's concern for a broader base of financial support for missions.

"Unless our base of support escalates rapidly, there's no way we can pay for Bold Mission Thrust," he said. "We have adopted some goals, but we have not committed ourselves to pay for them. My concern is that Southern Baptists do not know what's going on. They do not know that our Cooperative Program allocations are not as great as the bite of inflation. If we can communicate this to Southern Baptists, I am convinced that they will pay the price for Bold Mission Thrust."

"In spite of our affluence, the percentage of money going out of local churches to missions is as low as it was in the Depression (of the 1920s). As we get more money, we give a smaller percentage to missions," Parks continued.

Parks explained that the percentage of foreign missions income from the Cooperative Program has not increased comparably to growth in contributions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. "I do not believe we should be in a place where our denomination's main line of support is providing less than one-half our support," he said.

Yet Parks did not advocate upping foreign missions allocations at the expense of other cooperative-Baptist work. "We're not going to get there by slicing the pie differently," he said. "We need more money in the pipeline."

In other business, the WMU board reviewed its annual audit and discovered that heavy interest from invested reserve funds enabled the organization to end the year in the black despite increased costs of operations. Prices of WMU's magazines, which provide almost two-thirds of operating income, will be raised effective with July issues.

The board authorized its staff to employ a consulting firm to study space utilization and future needs for the national office building in Birmingham, and asked that a current appraisal of the property be obtained.

Salary Surveys Are Mailed To The Churches

On January 31st, Salary questionnaires were mailed to every church staff member of the ministerial level. The purpose of this survey is to furnish the churches of The Mississippi Baptist Convention up-to-date salary information to assist in making their 1981 budgets.

Results of this survey will be available and mailed to the churches in June of this year.

Brooks Wester, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board president, appointed the following lay committee to conduct a salary survey: Murray Alexander, chairman, Mrs. Charles Tyler, Irvin Parks, Ingram Foster, and Charles Pickering.

This lay committee will be assisted by the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity Department, who is charged with the responsibility of salary information.

Staff members are urged to take a little time and carefully fill in this information asked for on the questionnaire and return it to the Church-Minister Relations and Annuity office

Top 20 Churches

"We Had Net Enrollment Gain of Nearly 4,000"

Bryant Cummings, director of the Mississippi Baptist passes along the statistics of the top 20 churches in net gain in Sunday School enrollment for 1978-79.

"We had a net enrollment gain in Mississippi of nearly 4,000, where the year before we had a net enrollment loss across the state," said Cummings.

Cummings said he believed the gain could be attributed to a rise in the priority among Mississippi Baptists of developing a "growth image."

Association	Church	Net Gain
1. Jackson	Eastlawn	335
2. Hinds-Madison	Raymond	280
3. Warren	Woodlawn	229
4. Hinds-Madison	Clinton, First	201
5. Washington	Southside	185
6. Hinds-Madison	Jackson, First	164
7. Carroll	Valley Hill	163
8. Hinds-Madison	Lakeshore	160
9. Hinds-Madison	Madison	140

Before You Move

1. Attach old mailing label in the space below or print your old address, and account number.

Account No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date you plan to move _____

2. Print your new address here.

Consumer Bureau Checks Trade Of \$5 For Hanky

INDIANAPOLIS (EP) — Gene Ewing's "faith handkerchiefs" may not violate any postal laws, but his offer to trade one of his prayers for your \$5 bill violates an Indianapolis ordinance, says Janet Atkinson of the Better Business Bureau here.

The Georgia minister has been mailing out letters that include paper handkerchiefs and promising miracles to the person who writes his name on one, places it overnight in a certain part of the Bible and sends \$5 to the minister at an Atlanta post office box. Georgia postal officials said the minister was not violating postal laws but that they are "monitoring" his activities.

Volunteer Critically Ill Following Nigerian Trip

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — One member of a volunteer evangelistic team is listed in critical condition suffering from cerebral malaria and another team member has received medical treatment following their return from Nigeria.

Milford Doss Jr. of Somerset, Ky., became seriously ill following his Jan. 18 return from a 22-day visit in Nigeria. In the intensive care unit of the University of Kentucky Hospital, Lexington, Doss is unconscious with a high fever.

Another team member, Wiley B. Faw Jr., has been ill with a fever and is expected to be hospitalized. Faw, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Lincoln County, Ky., is the son of Southern Baptist missionaries Mr. and Mrs.

Wiley B. Faw Sr. of Gombe, Nigeria. Missionary Faw and C. E. Jacobs, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky., coordinated the trip. The seven-member team assisted with evangelistic projects in Gombe, in the northeastern part of Nigeria east of Jos, and in Kafanchan, south of Jos, from Dec. 27 through Jan. 17.

Franklin T. Fowler, medical consultant for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said that cerebral malaria is the more serious type of the disease that affects the brain functions and has a higher mortality rate than the more common type of malaria.

He said there have been no reports from the field that any Southern Baptist missionaries have had similar problems.

Kerr, Hauk Will Lead Seminar On Ministry To Senior Adults

Horace L. Kerr and Gary Hauk of Nashville, Tenn., are resource persons for a seminar on "Effective Ministry With Senior Adults" to be held April 21-23 at the Baptist Building in Jackson. The seminar has been planned and will be coordinated by Kermit S. King, Senior Adult consultant for Mississippi.

With Kerr's new Broadman release, *How To Minister To Senior Adults In Your Church*, as the model, he along with his associate will be guiding seminar participants through all phases of work with senior adults in a church setting.

Kerr is the Senior Adult Ministry supervisor, Family Life Department, Baptist Sunday School Board. Hauk is a consultant in the Senior Adult Ministry section. Kerr was formerly head of the Governor's Council on Aging in the state of Mississippi. Prior to this he served First Church, Jackson, and Calvary Church, Tupelo, as minister of education.

The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21, and concludes at noon on Wednesday, April 23. A registration fee of \$15.00 is required in advance for the purchase of materials. The resource persons are provided by the Sunday School Board at no cost to Mississippi.

Topics included in the projected seminar agenda include a discussion of the aging process, a focus on the needs of senior adults, creative programming in the areas of social needs, continuing education and service opportunities, how to discover interests, needs and talents, resources for senior adults, how to plan a club program for a year, the role of a senior adult consultant, how to move a senior adult group from meetings to ministries, and the rapidly growing vocational opportunities related to senior adults.

A film festival of movies related to senior adult ministries will be one evening's feature.

The seminar will conclude with a message by Kerr on "Older Persons: A Continuing Challenge."

A promotional brochure is available from the Senior Adult Consultant, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Eight Pastors Will Guide Study: "Biblical Basis of Missions"

Eight Mississippi pastors will be leading the study of the Biblical Basis of Missions in ten seminars to be conducted in Baptist churches around the state on March 24 and 25. All are set for 7-9 p.m.

There will be one in each of the following locations on March 24: Biloxi, First; Hazlehurst, First; Newton, Clarke College; Tupelo, Calvary; Greenwood, Immanuel.

There will be one in each of the following locations on March 25: Hattiesburg, Carey College; Vicksburg, Bowmar Avenue; Columbus, First;

Kosciusko, First, and Coldwater, First.

"The meetings are designed for pastors and others who will be teaching the Doctrine of Missions books in the churches. The books are *Adults — The Biblical Basis of Missions*, by Avery T. Willis, Jr.; *Youth — Youth Affirm: The Doctrine of Missions*, by Ed Seabough & Bill O'Brien; *Children — Ways to Tell About Jesus*, by Lou Heath.

Each meeting will offer one class each for Adult, Youth, and Children's studies.

Church Training, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board are sponsors of the meetings.

Seminar Leaders for the Adult Book, *THE BIBLICAL BASIS OF MISSIONS*, are the following pastors: Brooks Wester of First, Hattiesburg; David Grant of Broadmoor, Jackson; Bill Causey of Parkway, Jackson; Joe McKeever of First, Columbus; James Hefflin of First, Greenville; Gordon Sansing, Jr. of First, Pontotoc; Tommy Baddley of First, Brandon; and John Armistead of Calvary, Tupelo.

It will be the church's responsibility to enlist a team of three to attend including the pastor and a teacher for youth and one for children.

Sarah Taylor Will Speak On 'Woman's Place'

Sarah (Mrs. Howard) Taylor of Pascagoula will be the featured speaker at a series of five seminars for women.

Mrs. Taylor, whose husband is pastor of Arlington Heights Baptist Church in Pascagoula, will speak at the five Women's Seminars in Meridian, Clinton, Gulfport, Hattiesburg, and Brookhaven.

These Women's Seminars, planned for women ages 18-45, will feature discussion of the place of the woman in the home, the church, and the community. A portion of the time during each seminar the women will be divided into two groups for discussion. Ethel McKeithen will lead the older women; and Marilyn Hopkins will lead the younger. These two are on the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union which is sponsoring the events.

Each seminar will take place from 4:30-8:30 p.m. and will require reservations along with a \$5 fee which includes a light snack supper.

Dates and places of the seminars are: Feb. 25, First Church, Meridian; Feb. 28, Camp Garaywa, Clinton; March 24, First Church, Gulfport; March 25, First Church, Hattiesburg; and March 27, First Church, Brookhaven.

Reservations and fees must be received by Ethel McKeithen, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, one week before the seminar for which the reservation is requested.

Perry County Selects Smith To Direct Missions

Perry County Baptist Association has chosen B. F. Smith of Hattiesburg as part-time Director of Missions. The action, effective Feb. 1, came at a meeting in New Augusta Jan. 24 on recommendation of the association's Missions Committee.

Smith will serve the 17 churches from the Mission Center in New Augusta. He also can be reached at his home in Hattiesburg, 3306 Arlington Loop, phone 264-2224.

Smith, who succeeds Troy Sumrall, served as a professor at William College for 24 years and has appeared in over 125 churches as interim pastor or revivalist.

March 1 Is Starting Date: Gulfshore Reservations

(Continued from Page 1)

be a 50-cent per day participation fee. A special feature added this year to Gulfshore arrangements is the youth conference package plan. Five different programs at Gulfshore offer this package which includes all meals and lodging. The rates differ with the conference: Youth conference — \$61; Instrumental retreat — \$45; Young musicians — \$61; Youth choir — \$45; and Youth music — \$61. Gulfshore retains the right to fill rooms to capacity except with family groups.

There are three basic types of accommodations in addition to the recreational vehicle sites. All three offer air conditioned rooms with private baths. Children ages 2-11 are charged at half the adult rate, and children under two are charged 50-cent per day. Unit "A" has two beds for two people at \$19.25 per person per day. Unit "C" has eight beds for 2-4 people at \$17.75 per person per day. Unit "B" has efficiency apartments with four beds charging \$24 per day for two adults; \$33 per day for three adults; and a maximum charge of \$40 per day.

The rates quoted for Unit "A" and "C" include meals, room, and linens. Rates for Unit "B" include only room, linens, silver, and utensils.

Meal costs are \$2.25 for breakfast and \$3 each for lunch and supper. Registration for each conference will begin at 1:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated in the conference program. One person per group should register for the whole group upon arrival. All charges are payable at registration time.

Gulfshore carries accident insurance on registered guests and for guests en route to and from a conference within a 48 hour limit.

No pets are allowed on the grounds. For more specific information about Gulfshore policy, facilities, or registration, write: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571. Frank Simmons is manager.

For information on programs and schedules for the various weeks at Gulfshore, write the sponsoring department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Young Musicians Choral Festival To Be At MC

The annual choral festival for Young Musicians, grades 4-6, will be held in the Mississippi College Coliseum on Saturday, April 19.

The guest conductor for the event will be Mrs. Jo Ann Butler of Oklahoma. Mrs. Butler is a writer for the *Music Leader* and *Young Musician* magazines. A clinician and conductor of children's choirs, she is also on the faculty of East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma.

Music for the event has been selected by a committee and consists of anthems written by A. L. Butler (husband of Mrs. Jo Ann Butler) Pat Ballard, and Beryl Red. A theme of "Music, My Gift from God" has been chosen and special people have been

selected to be a part of this program. One highlight will be Paula Box and her dummy, Lester. Paula is a graduate of Mississippi College and now lives in Texas.

"If you have not ordered your music as listed in the Festival Handbook, please do so. Music should be memorized for the festival," said Sarah Talley, coordinator for the event. Mrs. Talley may be contacted at the Church Music Department, MBCB, 354-3704, for further information.

Interfaith Witness...

(Continued from Page 1)

meetings, Feb. 21-22, both at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Amory.

Each meeting will offer discussion of several of the religions mentioned above. Guest speakers include Hollis and Eunice Bryant, Lloyd Whyte, Eddie Prince, and Gary Leazer.

Bryant is consultant in the Cooperative Mission department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Whyte is regional missionary in Interfaith Witness for the Home Mission Board. Prince is pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Hernando, with first-hand knowledge of Jehovah's Witness work. And Leazer is campus minister at William Carey College.

For specific information on the various meetings, and for reservations for the noon meetings (which offer lunch), contact the director of missions in that county. Smith association director of missions is Charlie Bryant, phone 782-4264; Chickasaw, contact, Hollis Bryant, at 354-3704 in Jackson; Calhoun, contact Marvin Bibb at 628-6262; and for Monroe, contact Roger Dorsett at 256-8778.

1980 Gulfshore Schedule

Date	Conference	Program Director
May 19-23	I-Senior Adult Retreat (A program of Bible study, preaching, fellowship and conferences to meet the spiritual and developmental needs of senior adults.)	Kermit King
23-26	Singles Renewal Retreat (("Free to Be" is theme. For young and median singles never married and formerly married.)	J. Clark Hensley
26-30	II-Senior Adult Retreat (See program description for May 19-23)	Kermit King
30-June 3	I-Youth Conference (Youth Weeks involve young people in activities such as Bible study, worship, missions, evangelism, fellowship and afternoon recreation.)	Larry Salter
June 3-7	II-Youth Conference (Same as I-Youth Conference)	Larry Salter
9-13	III-Youth Conference (Same as I-Youth Conference)	Larry Salter
13-17	IV-Youth Conference (Same as I-Youth Conference)	Larry Salter
17-21	V-Youth Conference (Same as I-Youth Conference)	Larry Salter
21-25	VI-Youth Conference (Same as I-Youth Conference)	Larry Salter
26-28	Church Training Leadership Conference (Program to (1) equip church training leaders to lead effectively, (2) equip associational officers to perform their responsibilities. A conference to mentally retarded persons, their parents and leaders will also be offered June 26-28.)	Norman A. Rodgers
July 1-5	Family Enrichment Conference (("Families Facing the Eighties." For families — all ages and groups. Conferences and worship. Family Day and Fantabulous Fourth!)	J. Clark Hensley
7-9	Pastor/Church Staff Conference (To provide fellowship, inspiration, training and skill development for all church staff and their families.)	Leon Emery
9-12	Instrumental Retreat (For youth and adult orchestral/band and handbell groups and individuals.)	Dan Hall
12-16	Youth Musicians Music Conference (For children who have finished grades four, five and six by June 1, 1980.)	Dan Hall
16-19	Youth Choir Retreat (For youth choirs only, by invitation — ten to twelve choirs.)	Dan Hall
19-23	Youth Music Conference (Youth choirs and individuals. The conference will include a combined choir and a variety of music classes.)	Dan Hall
24-26	Music Leadership Retreat (For all persons with music leadership responsibility and their spouses.)	Dan Hall
28-30	I-Sunday School Mini Conference (All leadership conferences will provide training and motivation for officers and teachers. Bible study and ways to enlarge the Sunday School will be presented.)	Bryant Cummings
31-Aug. 2	II-Sunday School Mini Conference (Same as I-Sunday School Mini Conference.)	Bryant Cummings
August 4-6	III-Sunday School Mini Conference (Same as I-Sunday School Mini Conference)	Bryant Cummings
7-9	IV-Sunday School Mini Conference (Same as I-Sunday School Mini Conference.)	Bryant Cummings
9-13	VII-Youth Conference (Same as I-Youth Conference)	Larry Salter
13-16	Church Recreation Conference (A Bible centered program to equip pastors, staff members and volunteer workers with skills in administering a church recreation program in any size church.)	Kermit King
18-22	III-Senior Adult Retreat (See program description for May 19-23) (To Contact Program Directors Write: Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205) Call: 601/354-3704	Kermit King

Youths Take 3 Days To Read Bible From Cover To Cover

ABILENE, Texas (EP) — People have done some pretty strange things to get their names in the Guinness Book of World Records but several youth from the First United Methodist Church here may bring some spiritual atmosphere to the volume — they read the entire Revised Standard Version of the Bible aloud at one sitting.

The record took 79 hours, 42 minutes and 30 seconds, considerably less than had been originally estimated. Youth minister Les Burrus had thought the reading would take 20 hours longer.

Since there is no Bible reading record in the Guinness tome, the youth may have a better-than-average shot at the honor. Burrus said the group would send newspaper clippings, a log and reading schedule to the Guinness organization located in Great Britain for verification of their claim.

About 30 junior and senior high school students participated in the reading about over the church's public address system. Pairs of students read in three-hour shifts, relieving each other at 15-minute intervals.

Nine Cities Will Play Host To Man and Boy Rallies

The First Baptist Churches in nine Mississippi cities will play host to Man and Boy Rallies all on March 3.

Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Brotherhood Department, the rallies are designed to provide fellowship, inspiration, and mission exposure for Baptist men and boys, and to acquaint these men and boys with opportunities for mission project ministries.

Each program will begin at 6:30

p.m. with a fellowship meal, followed by entertainment, testimonies from persons involved in mission projects, and a message of challenge.

Cost of the meal is \$2. Reservations must be made with the host church. Host churches are the First Baptist Churches of Senatobia, New Albany, Greenwood, Starkville, Clinton, Union, Brookhaven, Laurel, and Gulfport.

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Mississippi Baptist Activities

Feb. 10-17 WMU Focus Week (WMU)
Feb. 10-17 Sunday School Teaching and Growth Conference
Feb. 10-17 FBC, W., 7:00-9:30 p.m. (SS)
Feb. 12 Sunday School Teaching and Growth Conference
Feb. 12 EBC, Lucedale, 7:00-9:30 p.m. (SS)

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

The Legislature . . .

Watch the alcohol moves

Another legislative session is under way, and the Baptist Record will seek to keep its readers aware of the issues that deal with morality which will be before the Legislature.

A number of bills have been filed already that should be of interest to all Baptists of Mississippi.

Senate Bill 2016 (Dyer) would make lawful the advertising of alcoholic beverages. This measure has been before the Legislature for the last two years, at least; each year it has been defeated. These folks never give up, however; and here it is back again. At this time it is illegal to advertise liquor and wine in Mississippi. To advertise these products would only give them greater distribution. That would be the reason for advertising. This bill needs to be squelched immediately.

House Bill 57 (Price) would make less than .06 per cent of alcohol in the blood stream to mean not under the influence, between .06 and .10 per cent to mean presumed to be under the influence, and more than .10 to mean intoxicated. The "drunk" level is now .15, so some kind of a law in this respect is needed.

Senate Bill 2138 (Mabry, Scoper, Shows, Burkes) would lower the presumed not under the influence level to below .05, between .05 and .10 to mean under the influence, and .10 and above to mean intoxicated. The difference between the two bills is in the lowering of the presumed not under the influence level to .05 in this bill instead of .06 in the other. Because of that, this one is more attractive.

There are a number of other bills

relating to alcohol. House Bill 72 (Horne) would require an arresting officer to retain a driver's license until the person is judged guilty of having driven under the influence of liquor.

Senate Bill 2063 (Rhodes) would authorize package retailers to sell alcohol through windows of the licensed building.

Senate Bill 2047 (Johnson) would establish details for checking the authenticity of petitions calling for local option elections.

On another subject, Senate Bill 2122 (Bodron) would include church bus tags among those license tags and decals sold and issued by county tax collectors.

Senate Bill 2167 (Burkes and Shows) would make it unlawful to transfer any drug-related object.

And House Bill 70 (Johnson) would make it unlawful to admit any person 17 years of age or under to a motion picture presentation rated "Parental Guidance," "Restricted," or "intended for mature audiences" unless that person is accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The Legislature needs to hear from Mississippi Baptists concerning these bills. Some of them should be supported, and some of them should be opposed. The members of the Legislature can act much more intelligently when they are aware of the attitudes of their constituents.

Letters should begin arriving at the legislative offices immediately. House and Senate members can be addressed at Old Central High School, Jackson, Ms. 39205.

In Israel . . .

Anti-proselytizing law is discussed

In December during a third trip to Israel I had opportunity to spend more time in the vicinity of the Sea of Galilee than previously. On one trip I missed it altogether. In traveling at the invitation of the Israel government, one travels where the government wants him to. The Galilee area just wasn't on the itinerary for the second trip. We were there for lunch on the first.

On this last trip the group arrived in Tiberias about noon and did not leave until the next day. Then we drove back by the sea on a trip to the city of Safad. We arrived at the sea by driving up the beautiful Jordan valley.

I believe that the area of the Sea of Galilee is my favorite spot in all of Israel. Be'er Sheva, Beer Sheva, is an interesting city, and the desert air is invigorating. Jerusalem is such a historic place that it demands a great deal of time and is fascinating. Haifa is a lovely coastal city cascading down the slope of Mt. Carmel to its natural

harbor on the Mediterranean Sea. Tel Aviv is a modern, hustling city.

Special Spot

The Sea of Galilee, however, is a special spot in a special area. The entire Galilee region with its green hills is picturesque. It is lovely. The sea is the pearl that shines forth in this beautiful setting.

We talked to fishermen on the shore of the sea, and I wondered how much they were like Peter. We stood on the gallery surrounding the church at the Mount of the Beatitudes and looked over the sparkling blue waters. I awoke early on second day of our stay in order to watch the sun rise over the hills across the sea. The sea is the setting for so much of scripture that it could not all be recalled at once. There are some who say that inspiration comes ever, in gazing out over the sea with the realization that this spot was the hub of much of the activity described in the four gospels.

Reflecting on the beauty of the sea of Galilee stirs fond memories, but before these remarks concerning the visit to Israel are concluded there should be more attention called to the dialog with David Ephrati, the director of relations with the churches in the foreign ministry.

Credited with Insight

Ephrati credited Jimmy Allen, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and new president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission, with insight which helped the Israel government to re-evaluate its new law. Ephrati said that some had tried to create a balloon which didn't exist and that some who proposed the law could have said less. Parliament has lessened the law, he declared.

He said there are two points to the law. These are (1) that it is forbidden to give material incentive in order to get a person to change his religion, and (2) it is also forbidden to accept such.

There are some honest preoccupations with these requirements, he noted. For instance, the Catholics give hospital aid. Because of these preoccupations, the attorney general has declared that no case shall be treated by the police without the permission of the attorney general.

This position taken by the attorney general has been declared government policy by virtue of a statement in a letter read in Parliament as a result of the Allen visit.

A letter from Allen to the Baptist Record received this week reveals that he has been invited to testify before the Committee on Constitutional Law and Justice of the Parliament by David Glass, chairman of the committee. Allen's testimony is to deal with the development of the Israel government's basic law on individual rights. Allen was told that he will be the first American religious leader to testify before the Parliament on the Israeli basic law.—DTM

Guest Opinion . . .

Appreciation for Christian Education

By Harry L. Barnes

Many times I have felt the need to express my appreciation to Southern Baptists for providing superb colleges and seminaries for Southern Baptists, as well as for people of all faiths and walks of life to have an opportunity for higher education in a Christian atmosphere.

Personally, I am a direct recipient of their concern in that I was privileged to attend one of our many colleges, Mobile College to be exact, as well as New Orleans Seminary, one of our six fine seminaries. One of my daughters is also a graduate of Mobile College.

When I read or hear criticisms leveled against some of these institutions (justified, I know not), it makes me sad, because I know that for the most part our colleges and seminaries are doing an excellent job. None of them have ever claimed perfection, and it has been my experience that the people who are in places of responsibility "lean over backwards" to do what is right. It is surely not an easy matter to steer a straight course and please 13 million plus Southern Baptists.

I found that my professors, both in

college and seminary, were very sensitive, dedicated, Christian people. They were concerned with their students' welfare. I cannot remember a single instance when one of my professors was unwilling to listen to me when I needed his or her counsel. As a matter of fact, I received far more personal concern than I had ever expected. I was 38 years old when I entered college; and I was sure the professors would be more concerned with the younger students, who held such promise for the future, than for a student like myself who had wasted so many of his better years and was now a "Johnny come lately." But my fears were totally unwarranted. They were as concerned for people such as I as they were for any other student.

Not only am I convinced that I received a quality education, one that may well have surpassed what I would have received at a better recognized school, but I also received it at a bargain price; because as I was a ministerial student, Southern Baptists paid the greater price for me. Every time they gave of their tithes and offerings they were helping me have an education that I may well have missed out on had it not been for them.

On occasion I hear on the radio or television, and receive through the mails, pleas from some other good religious organizations for financial support for their schools. Quite often they point up the fact that my gifts make it possible for some deserving student to attend their particular school. I can appreciate what they are doing, but I need to remember that, as a Southern Baptist, I have a financial commitment to our schools. Our schools are providing the very same thing for some very fine, deserving students. Southern Baptists should remember that when they send their gifts elsewhere they may or may not be helping a deserving student, but at the same time they may be denying some deserving student at one of our own well-established schools or seminaries the help that they need, the kind of help that I received. I do not believe that I could have financed my education without such help, and I deeply appreciate what was done for me.

As Southern Baptists, God has truly blessed us; and this we cannot deny. All things are not as they should be,

and they never will be in this life; but at the same time we surely can take pride in our colleges, our seminaries, our professors, and the administrative staffs of these institutions. They rank second to none in my opinion, and this is due to their love of God and a deep desire to please Him.

Again, I say, thank you, Southern

Baptists, for all that you have done to help me on my way to be what God has called me to be. I am indeed grateful for the opportunity to be a Southern Baptist.

Harry L. Barnes is pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church, Brookhaven.

Letters To The Editor

Military Church Needs Pastor

Our church is in need of some Christian assistance and pray that you, as editors of Southern Baptist state papers, will be able to give us that help.

Our church is a Southern Baptist church that provides a place of worship to the U.S. military community. We are affiliated with the European Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Our current pastor is in the military and will return soon (not later than June 1980) to the United States for retirement and enrollment in Southwestern Seminary.

Is it possible for you to place in your state papers a small announcement that we need a pastor and interested personnel could contact us?

Calvary Baptist Church is searching for an evangelistic, mission centered pastor. Information on length of service and benefits provided can be obtained by writing the pulpit committee. To help speed results and assistance for both, the writer should provide 2 tapes of messages, biographical information on both himself and his wife, along with a statement of doctrine. Forward information or request to Howard D. Pittman; 517 Main Co., Box 35; A.P.O. New York 09360. Howard D. Pittman, Pulpit committee chairman, Calvary Baptist Church, Karlsruhe, Germany.

Percentages for Missions

I appreciate Brother Bob Rogers' letter expressing his concern that a larger percent of the Cooperative Program gifts from the churches of Mississippi go to foreign and home missions. I also appreciate you as editor for pointing out that "the Mis-

issippi percentage to SBC causes is increasing year by year." Now, this brings me to the primary purpose of my letter.

Sometime ago I was very disturbed that we were keeping such a large portion of our Cooperative program money in Mississippi. At about the same time, I received a questionnaire from our state Convention Board of office asking my opinion of what percent that I felt was reasonable to be kept within our state. There was a place for me to write in my ideas. At first, the figure of 50 percent popped into my mind. But the more I thought about it the less sure I was about what that figure should be.

To compound this frustration, the next question was something like this: "What percent of your church's giving goes to outside causes, e.g. the Cooperative Program?" Right away I knew it wasn't 50 percent. As a matter of fact, I didn't know of a single church, personally, though I'm sure there must be some, that gives 50 percent or better of its total receipts. The church that I pastored at that time

gave 20 percent, and I thought we were doing better than average, at least.

Then, the thought came to me, if I'm really concerned about how much money Mississippi Baptists keep in Mississippi, and I am, shouldn't I be as equally concerned about how much of my personal income I keep for myself?

I think the question of how much Cooperative Program money we keep in Mississippi should be answered and measured to some degree, first, by the individual's income and his willingness to give, then the church's receipts and giving, and then the state's receipts and giving, etc. What I am trying to say is, we quite often ignore what our personal responsibilities are, and even what our church's responsibilities are, and jump to the state level.

I wonder, am I willing to give percentage-wise to my church and missions equal to what I expect my state to give percentage wise to the Cooperative Program causes? Just a thought!

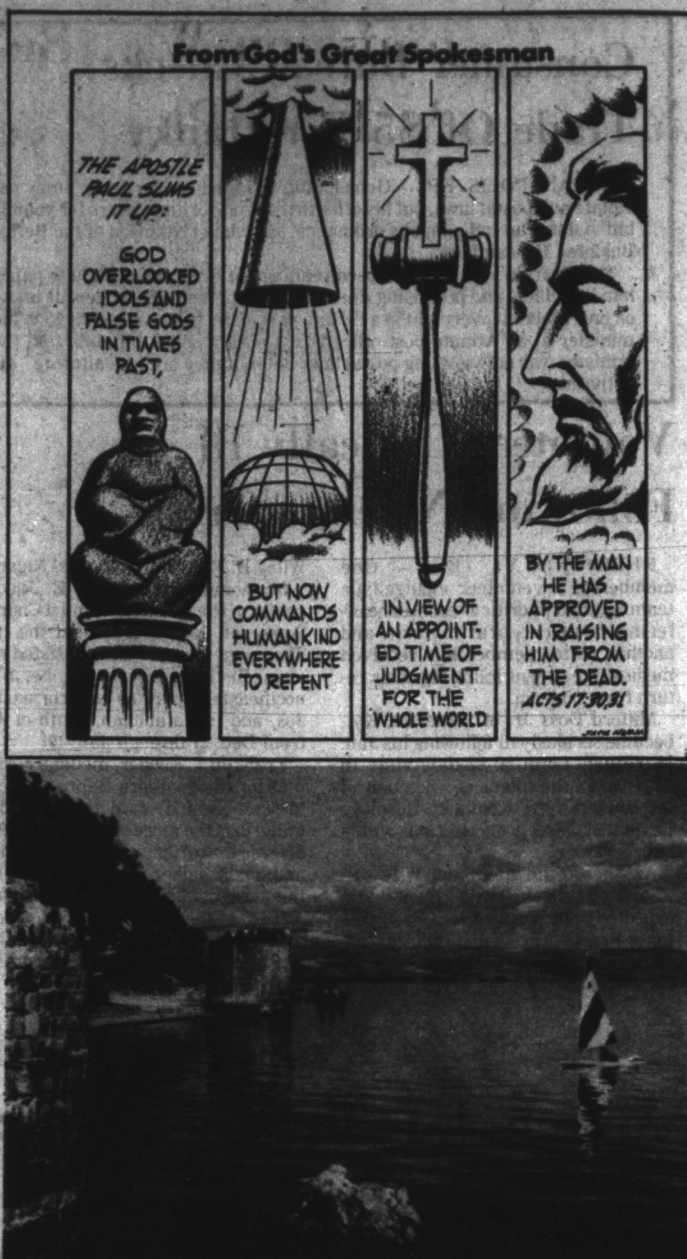
Harry Barnes, Pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church, Brookhaven.

Book Reviews

TALES OF PERSIA: A BOOK FOR CHILDREN by William McEneaney Miller (Dorrance, 145 pp., \$5.95) Miller was for 43 years a Presbyterian missionary to Persia — now called by its ancient name, Iran. This is a book of true short stories for children. It gives excellent descriptions of the land and people of Iran. This book is of interest to adults, too, particularly when Iran is in the news spotlight. The stories tell, in language simple enough for a child to understand, what the followers of Muhammad believe. Many of the stories, which concern the conversion

of Muslims to Christianity, are inspiring and full of the conviction and faith that mark a true believer. The author's style reveals his enthusiasm and sense of humor.

PERFECT PEACE by Charles L. Allen (Fleming H. Revell, \$5.95, 157 pp.) Allen, a Methodist pastor, explores ways to cope with and forget past failures. He shows clearly how faith in the Lord will give the power to face defeat victoriously, the power to start life over again with love, hope, belief, and work. The writing style is clear and easy-to-read.



Crusader and Turkish towers are a part of the shoreline of the beautiful Sea of Galilee at Tiberias, Israel.

Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Bob And Dorothy Lowe

Bob and Dorothy Lowe were bold mission volunteers a long time before everybody started talking about Bold Mission Thrust. He was a bi-vocational pastor before that term was coined. He's a pianist, and a pianist. And he plays the saw.

When I was in their house in Van Winkle the other night, drinking coffee, I listened to fascinating stories about their years in Chicago. I thought, "This is terrific! The home missions emphasis this year is on the north central states. If I needed a speaker in February or March, I'd try to line him up quick!"

Bob was born at High Point, N. C. He said he felt called to the ministry from the time he was "knee high to a duck." He recalls, "I'd hear a sermon on Sunday morning and preach it to my sisters and brothers that night." In his teens he caddied at the country club in High Point to earn spending money. For \$5, about 1933, he got a hand saw and a bow, the instrument he still plays.

His father was a Quaker and his

mother a Wesleyan Methodist, but he became a Baptist, he said, "by reading the Bible." A military chaplain baptized him in England.

During World War II he came to Mississippi, where he was stationed at Flora. At Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson (which church ordained him) he met and married Dorothy Woods.

In 1952 he resigned the pastorate of Scotland Church, Winona, and moved to Jackson, because he was sure the

Lord wanted him to go to Utah, the Mormon stronghold. September 1, 1952, he had \$40 and his wife had \$16. Strictly on faith, he headed west, leaving Dorothy to look after their four daughters, Carol, Susan, Kay, and Rose. Dorothy had faith, too, to be able to stay and wait.

"The Lord provided shelter and food all the way," he remembers. In Gallup, New Mexico, without asking, he was offered a free night's lodging at a mission. At Clearfield, Utah, he stayed at a Baptist pastor's home several days.

While taking a census in Clearfield, he met a man who was drinking beer, watching TV, and crying. The man told him his wife had died and he wanted to go to Oklahoma to place a marker on her grave. He asked Bob to stay in his house a couple of weeks while he was away. (When the man returned to his home, he brought a new wife.)

Money for food came, too, until he got a job at Hill Air Force Base. Bob spoke at a mission, which paid him \$5. One day he stuck his last coin in a parking meter, looked down and spied a penny on the ground, so he still was not broke. When Bob preached on a street corner, a man from Montana, listening, gave him a \$10 bill.

Within 49 days, his family followed him. They moved into a two-room house in Clearfield. From Army cots he fashioned doubledecker beds. From orange crates he made room dividers and furniture (their own was back in Mississippi).

However, they soon moved to Ogden, where they started a Sunday School in their house. (This grew into Calvary Church, the first Southern Baptist church in Ogden and the 10th in Utah.) They had Sunday School all over their house. A big tech sergeant even taught a class of Primaries in the bathroom. Still, after three years, average attendance was only 19. Bob prayed, "Lord, you promised to send laborers for the harvest. I need help."

The next Sunday two new families came, providing a teacher, a deacon, and a pianist. Soon afterward a civil engineer, Howard Yocum, and his wife Ellen, came knocking at the Lowes' door, wanting to help. They started an extensive visitation program.

The church moved into a store and (Continued on Page 5)

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Great Commission Will Be Reversed At Lake Placid

By Charles Willis
LAKE PLACID, N.Y. (BP) — Plans for Southern Baptists' first comprehensive outreach and witnessing effort at an international sports event have been completed for the 13th Winter Olympics here in February.

The needs of between 25,000 and 50,000 daily visitors, 14,000 support persons, 1,800 athletes and 2,800 local residents have been included in plans spearheaded by David Book, Southern Baptist home missionary.

"In reality, what's happening here in Lake Placid is the reverse of the Great Commission," he said. "Instead of our going out into the world, the world is coming to us."

The multi-faceted project has been in the planning for about three years, according to Book. About a year ago, the Home Mission Board assisted the Baptist Convention of New York in locating a ministry center right in the heart of the anticipated Olympics activities.

Known as "Exchange House," the facility will serve as the nerve center for Southern Baptist efforts during the Olympics and will be the home for a chapel that is Book's long-term assignment.

From Feb. 3-24, Book will oversee approximately 125 volunteer personnel, including a core staff of 25 persons, predominantly Christian Service Corps volunteers, semester missionaries and US-2 missionaries.

A hospitality center at Exchange House will be open 24 hours a day, including a soup and salad bar, literature distribution, Christian entertainment, language interpreters, information service, emergency service, large-screen television viewing of

the games and conference room space.

Teams of specialists trained in ministry and evangelism will conduct a street ministry. Using select titles from the Sunday School Board's "Choice Creations" tract series, Book said the teams "will not blitz or distribute the tracts wholesale." Rather, team-members will seek out human needs and respond with tracts that address those specific needs.

Since Lake Placid schools will close for five weeks, Southern Baptists will participate in an "Olympic Learning Project," a learning experience for elementary school children. Parents, teachers and clergy will use puppets, music and other aids to bring understanding of the Olympics to the children's level. Book said enrollment is already at capacity.

A Christian supper club in nearby Saranac Lake, N.Y., at the Blue Grotto Restaurant will be run by Southern Baptist home missionaries Ken and Marilyn Prickett.

Southern Baptists will maintain welcome stations at airports, bus stations and peripheral parking lots, offering free coffee, information, literature and selected tract distribution.

"The Good Sam Program" is a project to aid senior citizens whose activities will be curtailed due to traffic congestion and the confusion of crowds. All Lake Placid senior citizens will be eligible for assistance in having errands run or miscellaneous forms of help provided during the Olympic weeks.

Other Southern Baptist participation includes a delegation from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary which will engage in personal witnessing, and service by Barbara McElhaney, student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, as one of 14 chaplains working with a Religious Affairs Committee.

"We want Christ to be lifted up to the world," said Book. "I'm praying for an opportunity to show visually that Christ is alive and is the redemptive factor in life."

"We want to demonstrate to Lake Placid that we're genuine people — that we can offer something that has integrity. Many think we'll leave after the games," he said, "which is not the case at all."

Book will be in Lake Placid long after the Olympics have ended, working to establish Southern Baptists as a permanent and valued part of the community.

Ray Memorial Dedicates Building

Ray Memorial Church, Bolivar County, dedicated a new building Dec. 16, 1979. Program personalities for the dedication service included Billy Cochran, Charles Everitt, and Felton Warren. The Stokes Trio provided special music.

Ray Memorial originated from Meltonia, Centerfield, and New Hope churches. Each of the speakers had previously been associated with one of these churches. Mack Robinson, Ray Memorial pastor, presided over the afternoon's events.



Bob plays the saw.

Bob and Dorothy Lowe

(Continued from Page 4)

grew to 123. A loan from the Home Mission Board helped them buy two acres. A building went up. A storm blew it down. Members rebuilt, 20 feet longer and 20 feet wider.

A group pulled out, saying, "We don't want to be Southern Baptists." But Calvary Church kept growing. It sponsored a mission that became the Ben Lomond Church.

During his nine years in Utah, Bob had the joy of naming two churches and an association, Calvary and Ben Lomond, and the Golden Spikes Association. He was a member of the regional missions committee that laid the groundwork for the Utah-Idaho Baptist Convention. He started a mission in Wyoming that became the Hillcrest Church, Eddiceton.

Two more daughters were born in Utah to the Lowes, Margaret, and a baby that did not live.

Leaving Utah, he was called to a church in the Chicago area, at Lombard, Illinois, meeting in a basement. He stayed in that transitional area for 15 years, seeing the congregation grow from 30 to 250. This church sponsored an East Indian mission.

In all of this work Dorothy had a share. In Chicago, she and other WMU members taught Vacation Bible schools for Puerto Rican and Spanish children, in vacant lots or in any available outdoor space around apartment buildings. "No matter which direction you looked, there would be 20,000 people living in one block."

With five girls in school in Chicago, Bob needed additional income; a deacon financed his course in piano tuning (but he later repaid the deacon.)

In 1975 he went on a preaching mission to Scotland and England.

Since returning to Mississippi he has been pastor at Louin and interim pastor at Union Church, Puckett. While he was a student at Mississippi College he was pastor at Mize (Sullivan's Hollow.) He studied at New Orleans Seminary.

Now he works at National Tool Corporation in Raymond. The Lowes are members of Oak Forest Church, Jackson. Their daughter, Rose (Mrs. John Cosier), who works in the Baptist Building, is expecting her first child in early March — to be the Lowes' 10th grandchild.

For speaking engagements, interim pastorates, or pastorate, Bob may be contacted at 4543 Dixie Drive, Jackson 39209 (phone 922-6594).

He is a good communicator, with a live challenge for youths and adults. In his stories I got this message: "If you obey the Lord, and go where He sends you, He surely goes before you and with you."

Youths Invited To Participate In Mission Projects In England

A multi-national program combining homestays with British families, intercultural exchange with youths from France, Germany and Sweden, and direct mission activities is now open to American youths through an innovative service directed by an English Baptist bi-vocational pastor, Christopher Russell of Camberley, England.

The organization, known as Students English Holiday Club, has majored for the past ten years on "three-week" experiences for students from churches in Europe in groups of fifty, teaching the English language and providing sightseeing, devotionals and other intercultural activities. The students are placed with carefully screened families. The organization, which handled 400 students during the summer of 1978, is probably the only Christian organization in England attempting to intermingle young students of different nationalities in the home environment. Two other Baptist pastors and their wives assist the Russell.

Foreign Missions Battered

(Continued from Page 2)

habits, using less meat and more fresh vegetables and fruits. Car pools are springing up in overseas settings as well as in the United States.

Parks said that the rampant inflation overseas has made it necessary for many of the budgets of Southern Baptist mission organizations in 94 countries around the world to be slashed. It also has created critical problems at the Foreign Mission Board in projecting budgets in 1980.

During the 10-year period between May 1969 and May 1979, the number of missionaries appointed by the board increased more than 22 percent, while inflation rose more than 96 percent.

Those two factors combined show a need for more than 140 percent in budget increases during the 10 years just to maintain the increased number of missionaries and their work, according to Winston Crawley, overseas division director.

Yet Southern Baptist giving to foreign missions during that period rose only 118.5 percent.

"This is not bold financing," Crawley suggested. "To be bold, we must do more than just keep up with inflation and increased missionary personnel — we're not even doing that now."

Bill O'Brien, the board's director of denominational cooperation, added: "Once the decreased percentage of dollars given to foreign missions actually gets on the mission field, it gets clobbered two more times — once by overseas inflation of that particular country's currency, and again by the devaluation of the American dollar overseas."

O'Brien, Crawley and Parks all expressed fears that the current inflationary spiral may eventually force the Foreign Mission Board into being only

a mission sending agency, rather than a full-orb mission agency.

"That means we would foot the bill to get the missionaries on the field, but we couldn't put any tools or operating budget funds in their hands to work with, and we couldn't provide capital for buildings," O'Brien explained.

Parks said that in the past, the Foreign Mission Board has attempted to spend one-third of its budget for missionary support, one-third for capital needs (primary building construction), and one-third for operating expenses overseas.

"Today, about 60 percent goes for missionary support with less and less to capital needs," he said.

To help plan for the board's 1980 budget, Lewis Myers, associate to the overseas division director, prepared a complicated chart comparing the "actual" dollars budgeted over a 23-year period to the "constant" dollar factor — a figure adjusted to compensate for overseas inflation, dollar devaluation and U.S. inflation. Myers used 1967, the year used by the U.S. government, as the basis for comparison of "actual" dollars and "constant" dollars.

The study showed that over the past 10 years, buying power of foreign mission funds has been reduced by a total of 128 percent by the three factors of U.S. inflation, dollar devaluation overseas, and overseas inflation.

Using these factors, the \$46,768,000 budgeted by the Foreign Mission Board for missionary support in 1980 amounts to only \$36,946,000 in equivalent buying power compared to ten years ago, Myers said. That's a loss of almost \$10 million.

(Adapted from the March 1980 issue of "World Mission Journal")

Highland Celebrates 25th Year

Highland Baptist Church, Crystal Springs, will celebrate its 25th anniversary as a church, on Feb. 10.

Highland was organized in 1955, after having existed as Pecan Grove Baptist Sunday School for four months. The church began with 31 charter members and now reports a resident membership of 337.

Highland has had six pastors — John Sartin, Jr., D. J. Benson, Max Jones, Russell Cottingham, Robert Miles, and James E. Griffin, the present pastor.

Six men from the fellowship of the church have answered the call to the gospel ministry. They are Harold McLendon, William Hydrick, Jimmy Barrentine, Larry Mitchell, Lyn Nations, and Riley Ainsworth.

Lyn Nations will bring the message at the morning worship hour. After a lunch served in the Fellowship Hall, an afternoon session will be held, featuring special music and testimonies.

All former pastors, ministers of music, members and friends are invited, says Mrs. Edna Maud Dean, anniversary chairman.

"So they called them back in and told them that under no condition were they to speak or to teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them: You yourselves judge which is right in God's sight, to obey you or to obey God. For..."

WE CANNOT KEEP FROM TELLING

the things we have seen and heard. Acts 4:18-20

In witness to the deaf—

(1) Because of Home Mission Board encouragement, many Baptists such as Pat Bosler of Lihue, Hawaii, are able to witness and minister to the deaf. Pat (left) talks in sign language with Felipe Apana. Funds for work with deaf are part of the Language Missions allocation of \$3,800,000.

In evangelism—

(2) Metropolitan evangelism projects can penetrate barriers of big cities. Allocation for various evangelism strategies total more than \$900,000.

In language missions—

(3) Language missions, reaching approximately thirty different ethnic groups, includes the work of more than 1,000 home missionaries. Among them are Claudio Iglesias, pastoral missionary working with Indians in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In church extension—

(4) Homer Albright, Moorefield Baptist Church, West Virginia, witnesses to an artist at the Heritage Fair. Church extension programs are striving to place a Southern Baptist congregation in every county in the United States. Easter Offering Allocation for Church Extension: \$2,473,000.

In Christian social ministries—

(5) Willie Mae Giles takes a Baptist center ministry to residents of apartments in San Antonio, Texas. Easter Offering Allocation for Christian Social Ministries: \$1,711,000.

Week of Prayer for Home Missions March 2-9



Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering

National Goal \$15,500,000

one-half the funds for support of 2,800 home missionaries and their work

Mississippian Will Direct Women's Shelter In Tulsa



Deweese

Sheila Deweese, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Muri Deweese of Meridian, has accepted the position as director of the Women's Shelter in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Women's Shelter is a new community ministries project of the Tulsa Baptist Association.

The purpose of the Women's Shelter is to help women in need of shelter due to domestic violence, alcohol/drug problems, transient ways of life, recent release from

prison, and other emergency needs. The women and their children will be given help physically, emotionally, and spiritually as they try to establish a stable life-style. The Tulsa Baptist decided to sponsor this shelter because of a growing urgent need in their city.

Miss Deweese began work January 1, 1980. The shelter is scheduled to open February 18, 1980. Miss Deweese comes to Tulsa from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where she recently received her Master of Religious Education with a social work concentration. She is a 1976 graduate of William Carey College.

Jones County Leads The Way To Buy A Van For Jones JC BSU



McCurley and Rogers

Jones County Association led the way in a campaign to raise \$10,000 for the purchase of a new van for the Baptist Student Union at Jones County Junior College. Pictured on the left is Tom McCurley, Chairman of the Van Finance Committee of the BSU, receiving a \$3,000 gift from the Jones Association. On the right is Woodie Rogers, Treasurer of the BSU. This action was taken at the last meeting of the Jones County Executive Committee after the director of missions, Maurice Flowers, presented the need of a new BSU van.

The campaign is being conducted by

the Van Finance Committee in the eight-county area which sponsors the Jones BSU. These counties are Clarke, Covington, Greene, Jasper, Jones, Perry, Smith, and Wayne. The committee plans to contact directors of missions of the eight associations and pastors of the 202 Baptist churches in this area.

John Sumner, BSU director, Jones J. C., said "A van is necessary for the many facets of the BSU programs through which the students serve and grow spiritually. The ministry of the BSU not only reaches the students on the college campus, but also the churches of the eight-county area."

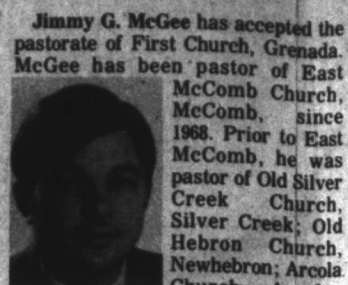
VIRGINIA, Liberia — The junior college division of Ricks Institute has conferred degrees on eight students in its first graduating class. Four of the students were graduated with honors. Ricks offers the only curriculum on the junior college level in Liberia. Ricks, a Baptist institution established in 1887, now enrolls students from kindergarten through junior college. Southern Baptist missionaries began working there in 1960, and now 14, including two journeymen and one volunteer, are under assignment.

Names In The News . . . Growing . . .

Chester Swor, Jackson author and lecturer, will be the featured speaker for a youth rally to be held Feb. 18 and 19 in the Coliseum at the fairgrounds in Kosciusko. The rally is sponsored by the Kosciusko Ministerial Association and the Attala Ministerial Fellowship. Parents, as well as youths, are invited.

Merrill Womach, religious singer and lecturer, will make a concert appearance at First Church, Kosciusko, Feb. 11.

There is no magic in the Bible — until you use it. — Herman Wolhorn



McGee

Jimmy G. McGee has accepted the pastorate of First Church, Grenada. McGee has been pastor of East McComb Church, since 1968. Prior to East McComb, he was pastor of Old Silver Creek Church, Silver Creek; Old Hebron Church, Newhebron; Arcola Church, Arcola; and was associate

and mission pastor of First Church, Greenville, 1965-68. McGee, a Jackson native and a graduate of Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary, is married to the former Mary Catherine Sansing, also of Jackson. They have three children.

First Church, Waynesboro, welcomed its new pastor, Robert H. Perry, Sunday, Jan. 6, with a reception and pouncing after the evening service.

Perry moved to Waynesboro from First Church, Raleigh, where he was pastor for five years. Perry is married to the former Doris Helen Warnock of Greenville. They have one son and three daughters.

Ecra Church has called Mike Stewart as minister of music and youth. Stewart is a native of Batesville, a graduate of South Panola High School, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Diamond Stewart. He attended Delta State University, but is now a student at Blue Mountain College.

Marcus Finch has accepted a call to the pastorate of Oakland Heights Church, Meridian. His first service as pastor there will be Feb. 17.

Finch goes to Meridian from the pastorate of Wildwood, Laurel. He and his wife Martha have two children, Mark and Melanie.

Mrs. Jack (Mae) Smith was recently honored with a reception at Highland Church, following her retirement from work in the church nursery, where she had an 18-year record of service.

Gordon Whiteley, formerly of Louisville, Ky., is new producer-conductor in the broadcast services department of the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission, Fort Worth, Tex. Whiteley, former instructional television production manager for WKPC-TV, Louisville, joins the other members of broadcast services in helping churches, associations, state conventions and Southern Baptist agencies with media needs.

John Parker, native of Lucedale, was honor guest at a luncheon at Rocky Creek Church, George County, Jan. 27. Parker, a missionary to Chile for 37 years, is retiring. Bob Sanderson is the Rocky Creek pastor.

James Lee Spencer, pastor of First Church, Morton, was among 150 persons who participated in the winter graduation exercises at New Orleans Seminary Dec. 15. He received the Master of Religious Education degree. Spencer was born at Potts Camp. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Spencer of Port, La., and is married to the former Kathryn Taylor of Andalusia, Ala.

Stanley Ballard has been licensed to the gospel ministry by Trinity Church, Clay County. He is entering New Orleans Seminary.

Lake Harbor Will Celebrate 10th Year

Lake Harbor Church, Rt. 3, Brandon, will observe its 10th birthday with homecoming services on Feb. 17. The morning services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45.

Other activities will include special music, recognition of guests, reports of accomplishments, and the morning message by James Pugh, Jr., of Meridian. Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

Evening services will include special music and the showing of slides taken by Rev. and Mrs. Pugh during their trip to the Holy Land in December.

Bill Stout, pastor, and the church members invite the public to attend.

Staff Changes

Wilson Winstead, pastor of Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, has resigned, effective January 30, to become pastor of the Briar Hill Church in Rankin County. He has served as pastor at Griffith since 1968.

The Winsteds were honored at the church with a reception on Sunday, January 28.

Rex L. Davidson, III, is the new minister of music at Faith Church, Lowndes County. Victor Bonner is pastor.

W. F. "Pete" Evans has assumed the pastorate of State Boulevard Church in Meridian. Evans had served as pastor of First Church, New Albany for 18½ years prior to going to State Boulevard.

He received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Mississippi College and the Master of Divinity from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He has served on the Southern Baptist Convention Brotherhood Commission, as President of Trustees for the Baptist Church's Village, and is active in Baptists for Scouting, U.S.A.

Evans is married to the former Mary Katherine McDonald of Meridian. They are the parents of two children.

J. Gerald Harris will begin duties in March as pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. He has been pastor of First Church, Camden, S. C., since 1971.

Prior pastorates include Flint-Groves Church, Gastonia, N. C.; Newport Church, Newport, N. C.; and Mt. Olivet Church, Raleigh, N. C. Harris, a native of Hickory, N. C., is a graduate of Mercer University and Southeastern Seminary. He holds the doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary.

Harris and his wife Martha Jean have three children, including nine year old twins.

Dewey Roach is interim pastor at First, West Point and Bob Gray is interim minister of music.

(Continued from Page 2)

ters were reported in 41 states and two foreign countries.

Among a number of other objectives approved was one to magnify the contribution which ministers with limited formal education in ministry have made to Southern Baptist life.

The Seminary Extension administrative committee, made up of the presidents of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, gives general direction to the overall work of the department. A faculty representative from each school provides guidance in planning and developing the SEC curriculum.

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Lottie Moon Offerings Keep Climbing Up

Walnut Grove Church, Leake County, has reached \$2753.42 in Lottie Moon Offering gifts. The church goal was \$1500. Jerry Kennedy is pastor; Mrs. Morris Rogers is WMU director.

West Union Church, Carriere, with an enrollment of 159 members, set a goal for the Lottie Moon offering of \$1,200. By December 23, 1979, they had reached the goal. At the end of the drive, Jan. 6, the Lottie Moon offering was \$1,573.25. They had exceeded the goal by \$373.25. During this interval the church was without a minister on the field.

"None of this could be possible without God. We give him the praise and glory," states Elaine Roche, a member of the church.

First Church, Okolona, set a Lottie Moon Offering goal of \$4,500, and a hal-lelujah goal of \$5,000. Amount received was \$6,050, according to Mrs. Ralph Mathis, WMU director, and James E. Parker, pastor.

Economy is too late at the bottom of the purse. — Seneca

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Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department

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In recognition of the commitment to Christian Education for a World in the Making shared by Baptist churches and educators, please join in observing the 1980 Baptist Seminary, College & School Day, February 17, 1980.

For more information contact the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37219 or 615-259-0111.

Answers on Page 71

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Answers on Page 71

Answers on Page 71

Just For The Record . . .



ECRU CHURCH, Charles Stubblefield, pastor, observed Deacons Emphasis Week Jan. 13-23. Deacons gave their personal testimonies, read Scripture, and took other parts in worship services. They studied THE MINISTRY OF THE DEACON. Teachers were Wayne Pitts, a deacon, and Jim Bain, pastor of First Church, New Albany. The deacons voted to enter the Deacons' Family Ministry Plan.

Left to right, front row: Truett Mounce, Melvin Nesbit, W. L. Mounce, Sam G. Pitts, Lewis McGee, Sonny Stubblefield. Second row: Flow Todd, Charles Mitchell, Wayne Pitts, Bush Hamilton, Lester Willis. Back row: Jack Hattox, James Speck, Willie D. Inmon, Willis Grant, Lannie Browning, and Marvin Chatham.



ARLINGTON CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO (Lincoln) held a note burning service Jan. 13, commemorating the total payment of a \$27,000 note in less than three years. The note was for the complete renovation of the sanctuary. Left to right, at rear, are: Bob Ammons, pastor, and Eugene Jordan, who offered the prayer of dedication. The three burning the notes are trustees, Joe Albritton, Edward Lofton, and Hulon Brown.

Oil Refinery Explosion Damages Texas Church

PHILLIPS, Texas (BP)—The stained glass windows of First Baptist Church here were just beginning to grow with the early Sunday morning light of Jan. 20 when the Phillips 66 oil refinery a half mile away exploded.

In an instant the windows shattered into thousands of glass shards — "shrapnel" which caused \$250,000 damage to its auditorium.

The explosion at 7:45 a.m. injured about 30 persons in the community — only a few hours before worshippers would have perhaps paid a higher price in injuries or even death.

"No one was at the church at that hour," said Jim Koonce, the pastor. Although 24 of those injured in the community were First Baptist Church

members, most were at home at the time of the explosion.

Only two injuries were serious, he said. One person had a concussion and another had a broken vertebra. Two elderly persons, who were already bedridden, were placed in hospital care because of the trauma of the explosion.

Most of the houses in the community were damaged and five families in the church were forced to leave their homes to relocate or stay with relatives. Damage to the church will probably take three to five months to repair, Koonce said. Meanwhile the congregation of 552 is meeting in the church's basement fellowship hall.

Wake Forest Church, Oktibbeha County, Andre Dobson, pastor, dedicated a new education wing Jan. 27 at 2 p.m.

Acteons and GAs of Wayne County have chosen as a mission project to send wash cloths and hand towels to the Baptist Hospital, Ajloun, Jordan.

Pine Bluff (Clay) has received shipment of its new baptistry. Leslie Dodson is pastor.

Trinity Church, Clay Association, has completed a new education building. Ronnie Estes is pastor.

Self Creek Church, Oktibbeha Association, has redecorated its auditorium, including the installation of new carpet and drapes. Also a steeple has been installed. Jerry Guess is pastor.

Immanuel, Cleveland moved into a new education building Jan. 6. New office space will be occupied as soon as furnishings are installed and decorating is complete.

First, Rosedale, held a Father/Son Banquet Feb. 3. At the morning worship service that day 11 RAs were presented with membership cards and RA pins. A patch was given each boy in recognition for a 10-mile hike in support of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Jackie Hurst is the Royal Ambassador leader at the church.

A senior citizen program has been established at First, Rosedale. Mrs. Elmer Holmes is president.

Christianity calls for maximums, not minimums.

Lowndes Ministers Will Sponsor Pulpit Exchange

Lowndes Baptist Ministers' Conference is sponsoring a Lowndes Association Pulpit Exchange Day, Sunday, Feb. 17.

Churches will participate on a voluntary basis in the event which will involve an exchange of pastors to preach in the morning worship service.

Churches are being contacted by Charles Bagwell, Lowndes Ministers' Conference president, and Mount Vernon pastor, who said that the purpose of this activity is "to foster a better acquaintance among pastors and churches and to enhance the spirit of fellowship throughout the association."



RICHLAND CHURCH observed its first "Old-Fashioned Day" recently, featuring old-time gospel preaching by J. L. Reeves, interim pastor. Dinner on the ground was followed by an afternoon of gospel and hymn singing led by Mike Smith, minister of music. A panel of judges awarded honors for the "best dressed" old-fashioned Baptists, pictured, left to right, Randy Ashley, Mrs. Bill Hammack, J. L. Reeves, and (not pictured) Mrs. Frank Furlow.



EDNA BLAINE won recognition at Richland's Old-Fashioned Day by wearing the oldest item of clothing, a pair of 115-year-old shoes.

Pleasant Hill Church will be host to the Lowndes Association Ministers' Conference at 10 a.m., Feb. 18. The church will provide lunch for those attending. Gene Henderson, Fairview pastor, will present a report on his recent trip to Israel.

Canan Church, Lowndes County, recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of its organization. George Blaine is pastor.

Center Ridge Has Three 'Firsts'

Center Ridge Church, Clarke County, experienced three firsts recently. The church is David Howard's first pastorate. Sunday, Jan. 27, Howard baptized the first person since he became pastor. The baptismal service was the first such service inside the Center Ridge Church.

Every man has a right to utter what he thinks truth, and every other man has a right to knock him down for it. — Samuel Johnson

BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

DOWN
1. GOD
2. MEET
3. LIRA
4. ANER
5. ARTS
6. SEVEN
7. SPIRITS
8. CASE
9. AID
10. FAIR
11. ELAM
12. AAM
13. ORC
14. CROSS
15. EME
16. GKE
17. HEN
18. SMUT
19. LAG
20. SLOE
21. SPIRIT
22. VALLEY
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28. EAR
29. EST
30. NUR
31. RHO



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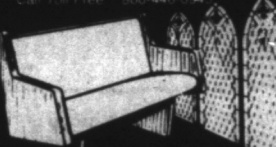
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P. O. Box 11308 Jackson, MS 39213

Honor Roll of Churches

At the close of each calendar year, an important feature of our self-evaluation includes a thorough review of cash gifts received in our offices during the period under examination, especially the sources from which those gifts originate. Again this year, trustees and administration at our Children's Village are thankful to be reminded, in convincing fashion, that The Baptist Children's Village IS BAPTIST, and not just in name only. For the private information of the Board of Trustees, we prepare a listing of Mississippi Baptist churches which, as church organizations, and through designated, cash giving, contribute \$300 or more to The Village's mission ministry, during the year under study. For 1979, this listing of our private "Honor Roll of Churches," together with a comparison analysis of church support during the year, provides encouragement and gratitude at a very needful time in our history. With humility and appreciation, we share some of these financial facts with our friends everywhere. Receipts reflected in this report include sums received in our central offices during calendar year 1979. While we believe our records to be correct, they are, of course, subject to our annual audit.

a. This year, a total of 354 Mississippi Baptist churches and several associations appear on the HONOR ROLL, as compared to a total of 271 in the previous year.

b. A total of 1552 different Mississippi Baptist churches made a designated cash gift in some amount to The Children's Village during 1979, as compared to 1478 in 1978.

c. Eighty-three different Baptist churches made designated, cash gifts aggregating \$1,000 or more during 1979, as compared to sixty-seven different churches giving at this level during 1978.

d. Stated in percentages, cash gifts from organized church sources which we received during 1979 amounted to 40.64% of our total receipts in the case of designated cash gifts, and 18.16% of total receipts, in the case of our Cooperative Program allocation. Therefore, 58.20% of all cash gifts received by The Children's Village in

1979 originated with Mississippi Baptist churches through the organized, group action of those churches! (Obviously, the major share of designated gifts received from individuals originated with individual Baptists).

e. According to our records, the "top twenty" local churches in terms of 1979, cash, designated support of The Village were as follows:

1. First Baptist, Jackson, Hinds-Madison Association
2. Lake Washington Baptist, Washington Association
3. Hollandale Baptist, Washington Association
4. First Baptist, Greenville, Washington Association
5. Roxie Baptist Church, Franklin Association
6. Morrison Heights Baptist, Hinds-Madison Association
7. Faith Baptist, Lowndes Association
8. First Baptist, Louisville, Winston Association
9. First Baptist, Vicksburg, Warren Association
10. Parkway Baptist, Jackson, Hinds-Madison Association
11. First Baptist, Water Valley, Yalobusha Association
12. First Baptist, Meridian, Lauderdale Association
13. First Baptist, McComb, Pike Association
14. First Baptist, Winona, Montgomery Association
15. Liberty Baptist Church, Mississippi Association
16. Calvary Baptist, Jackson, Hinds-Madison Association
17. First Baptist Church, Gulfport, Gulf Coast Association
18. First Baptist, Crystal Springs, Copiah Association
19. Mt. Zion Baptist, Independence, Tate Association
20. Forest Baptist Church, Scott Association

For the boys and girls who depend on us, we thank Mississippi Baptists, upon whom we depend. We claim considerable pride in saying that you "own and operate us." Our financial records continue to verify and corroborate that assertion.



Moore



Reed

Presenting Our Staff

Mrs. Irma Moore, left, general secretary, Jackson campus — more than ten years of service, and Mrs. Thelma Reed, right, receptionist, Jackson campus — more than 11 years of service.

Houseparents Needed:

Last month, in this space, we appealed for additional assistance on our houseparent staff — those men and women who live with the children in Village cottages, serving as "live-in," substitute parents. Our vacancies still exist and the need is great, particularly on our largest campus in Jackson.

Christian adults, in good physical and emotional health, with active local church affiliation, able to furnish pastoral endorsement, interested in living and working with children and young people, are urged to contact us. There is a special need for single ladies, without dependent children, preferably between the ages of 35 and 55 years. Husband/wife teams in this age group will also be considered.

We again ask you to help us find dependable co-workers, willing to join in this sensitive, necessary Christian mission. Inquirers are invited to write or telephone Paul N. Nunnery of Henry M. Glaze at Box 11308, Jackson, Mississippi 39213 (telephone number 922-2242).



A cottage birthday party.

— Jackson campus.

Memorials:

Among other high compliments afforded our child care mission, is the increasing practice of individuals who choose the needs of our boys and girls as an appropriate medium through which to honor the lives and influence of their friends and loved ones. Most frequently, the practice involves gifts of respect to deceased persons, but occasionally The Village's MEMORIAL FUND is favored with a gift of honor — A LIVING MEMORIAL — to a living person.

Each January, we re-examine and review receipts to our MEMORIAL FUND for the preceding year and address a letter of appreciation to those who have used the fund during the year under review. On January 31, 1980, we posted letters to substantially more than 1600 different people who honored dear ones through a memorial gift to The Village in 1979. Most of these donors gave to the MEMORIAL FUND on several occasions last year.

Unless otherwise instructed by the donor, the proceeds of each memorial gift is credited toward the expense of affording educational opportunities, including college and vocational training, to Village children and young people. We are grateful to report that 1979 memorial gifts helped make college and vocational training on the college level possible for 20 different Village young people in 5 different Mississippi colleges and universities, and in addition, afforded substantial assistance to us in satisfying the mounting costs of education in the public schools for hundreds of younger children.

Our staff gives memorial mail first and "same-day" attention by addressing an appropriate personal letter to the family of the honored individual on the day the gift of memory is received in our offices. A copy of that letter, together with our official receipt, acknowledging the gift, is mailed to the donor at the same time, along with a convenient envelope, expressly prepared for use in memorial giving on future occasions.

The Village is honored and humbled in being given the privilege of participating in these sensitive, and, we believe, unusually appropriate expressions of honor, memory and tribute. If you have not used our MEMORIAL FUND or if you would like to have further information about memorials at The Village, write to us!



Chores on the Farrow Manor campus

Admission of Children:

At least once each year we use this space to remind friends that we exist to serve the needs of neglected and dependent children, and their families who are in crisis situations, especially those who are of personal interest and concern to Mississippi Baptists. You support us and make our ministry possible, and we want you to know how to make our service available to those you know who need it.

Final decisions admitting children or young people to the care and custody of any Village facility are made in our central offices on the Jackson campus. Representatives of children or families in need of a child care service are invited to write or telephone: Mrs. Claire Nowlin, ACSW, Director of Social Service, The Baptist Children's Village. She may be addressed at Box 11308, Jackson, Mississippi 39213 or telephoned at 922-2242. Information, applications and related papers will be furnished on request and a Village social case worker will be promptly assigned to work with the family of applicants for admission.

We require endorsing approval of a Southern Baptist Church in Mississippi on each application for admission which must be signed by the parent or other individual having legal custody of the applicant/child. The Village reserves the right to require court-ordered custody in appropriate cases, together with the right to place the admitted child in any Village facility.

Complete information is available upon request. You help us. Call us when we may help you.

A Report From Lincoln County:

In December, we announced Village acquisition of child care properties near Brookhaven, formerly operated as OUR TOWN. Taking possession of our fourth children's home facility at a time when we were deeply involved in the busy activities of Christmas and the necessary duties of the year's end, it was necessary to defer plans to place children on the new property until the new year.

During January, satisfactory solution of several minor, legal problems and a detailed examination of the personal property with which we will work, have further delayed our progress. The Jackson staff is now effecting building repairs which must be completed before we can place children on the premises. We are now hopeful that the formal opening can be observed by March 1. It presently appears that some of the first children in residence will be transferred from our Jackson campus and some will be newly-admitted applicants.

In early March, we will publicize admission of the first children to the new facility together with the new name by which this branch Village operation will be called. We appreciate interest already demonstrated by many friends of The Village in this exciting new child care opportunity, as we solicit your continued prayerful support of our efforts to further refine and expand the Christian child care mission of Mississippi Baptists.

Shepherds Seek Preservation For New York's South Bronx

NEW YORK (BP) — For years, the wolves have stalked South Bronx. But the Shepherds are trying to change all that.

The Shepherds are a group of interdenominational ministers and lay leaders who are determined to rescue South Bronx from the wolves. There is an ominous task: arson abounds, drugs flow freely, prostitution flourishes, hunger runs rampant. Depravity and neglect go hand-in-hand.

There are perhaps 1,200 abandoned and broken buildings in the area. As many as 3,500 fires are set annually. Banks and business have disappeared. Libraries and schools stand empty. If they stand at all. Squatters live in gutted structures, bathe in streets and build fires in oil drums to keep warm. Most of the world has turned away, leaving the community to self-destruct.

Yet churches remain, and it is from them that the Shepherds have started anew.

A Stable Element
"The church is a stable element, a sign of continuing leadership and commitment," explained Stanton Eckstut, urban planner, Columbia University professor and Shepherd consultant. "There are a series of places in South Bronx which remain viable. You start with what is strongest — like areas around each church — and you build out from there."

The Shepherds realized, however, they could not build far beyond the membership rolls and sanctuary walls without outside help. They looked for federal funds, but they also called on the Evangelism Section of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Sam Simpson, pastor of Bronx Baptist church, talked to Dale Cross, the board's urban evangelism director, about Shepherd participation in the board's Key Cities plans. Cross put the Shepherds in touch with Reid Hardin, director of evangelism support. Hardin explained how N.E.S.T. (National Evangelism Support Team) could work in South Bronx.

Convocation

The alliance resulted in a three-day convocation this fall in New York. There, a 10-person HMB resource group shared dreams and strategy with the Shepherds.

Most importantly, the meeting allowed both groups to establish relationships, define the term "evangelism" in the context of South Bronx and map strategy for the upcoming months, Cross said.

Building relationships was a vital concern because many South Bronx churches are not Southern Baptist, he explained. "We all had to learn to trust and understand each other."

Likewise, Shepherds and home board leaders discovered common ground through a working definition of



STARK TRANSITION — Once "the bedroom of Wall Street," the South Bronx now bears the scars of mindless vandalism. Arsonists can be hired for as little as \$3 to torch an entire building, and "brick watchers" are hired to guard vacant structures. (BP) photo by Paul Obregon.

"evangelism." George W. Webber, president of the New York Theological Seminary, told the group: "Evangelism is the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. We're to witness and demonstrate that his kingdom has come."

Building on this foundation, both groups made plans for restoring South Bronx — spiritually and physically.

The strength of spiritual reconstruction is prayer, both from within and beyond the community. Participating pastors have agreed to work with at least two laymen in prayer and discipling teams. When the laymen are able, they are to each form new prayer groups, constantly dividing and multiplying. Also, board leaders are urging Southern Baptist churches, through missions organizations, to link up with Bronx churches in prayer groups.

Other opportunities for spiritual growth includes personal witness training, lay renewal workshops and mission work projects. All plans are designed to help Bronx churches strengthen their individual forces so they may continue to work in the community, even after outside mission volunteers are long gone, Cross said.

Renovation

To help with physical renovation, the board hopes to sponsor work groups to establish and equip a central office for the Shepherds. The groups also will work with all participating churches in months to come, supplying needed manpower to clean-up adjacent areas. The board already has

"Yet churches remain, and it is from them that the Shepherds have started anew."

Devotional Danger Of Substitutes

By Donald O'Quin, First Church, Charleston, Pastor

A wealthy man was moving into a new house, and his neighbor happened to be a Quaker. The Quakers, as you know, believe in simplicity and plainness of life. The Quaker neighbor watched as the movers carted in numerous pieces of furniture, a great deal of clothing, and many decorative pieces. Then he walked over to his wealthy new neighbor and said in his quaint Quaker way: "Neighbor, if thee hath need of anything, please come to see me — and I will tell thee how to get along without it." Jesus would have agreed with that advice; for He said one day, "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of things that he possesses" (Luke 12:15).

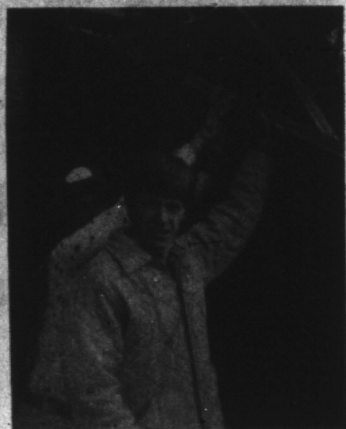
There is nothing wrong with enjoying the good things God has given us, provided they do not become substitutes for the best things of life. One of the mistakes of our society today is that of living on substitutes. Many people know the price of everything and the value of nothing. They have a false sense of security and a counterfeit feeling of satisfaction. Like a child eating cotton candy at a carnival, these people are enjoying the taste of life but getting nothing substantial to really live on. Then when the storms of life start to blow, they topple over like trees without roots.

Jesus said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). In other words, things — the good things that God wants us to enjoy — are not the center of life, but rather the extra benefits we receive when God is given His rightful place in our hearts. The man who lives for things and ignores God will lose both, but the man who puts God first will have God and the good things that God wants him to enjoy. This does not mean that every obedient Christian will be rich, but it does mean that he will receive the things God wants him to have in this life. It seems to me that this is a very fair contract. David wrote centuries ago, "I have been young and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psalm 37:25).

When you and I allow Jesus Christ to control our lives, then we gradually discover a whole new set of values. Things that once were so important become trivial, and things that used to lie on the edges of life suddenly take their rightful place at the very center. We discover that many "things" are just "adult toys," to keep us happy until the next novelty comes along. We discover, too, that when Christ is at the center, He gives us a deep satisfaction that nothing else can give. We stop living on substitutes and start enjoying a daily experience of reality.



J. P. Britt saw a fallen tree.



Harry S. Case and Kenny Smith lift a fallen rafter.

Macedonia Men Give Aid In Alabama

Fourteen men from Macedonia Church, Brookhaven (Lincoln County), went to Baldwin County, Alabama, recently at the request of the Baldwin Baptist Association to help families in the continuing clean-up in the aftermath of Hurricane Frederic. These men helped four families who were unable to help themselves. Gerald Moak is Brotherhood director and Kenneth Britt is Baptist Men's president. Harry Barnes is pastor.

Bible Book Series

Paul's Work In Ephesus

By J. Roy McComb
Pastor, First, Columbia
Acts 18:18-41

Paul is on the verge of concluding his second missionary journey, which is also the church's first European journey. As he prepares to leave Corinth he goes to the coastal city of Cenchrea. His preaching in Corinth had caused different reactions. Some had responded well and some had rejected his preaching. Nevertheless, he left behind believers.

I. Paul's Journey Homeward (18:23). Paul went to the coastal city from which he embarked to Ephesus. He carried with him Priscilla and Aquila. When Paul arrived in Ephesus he immediately went to the synagogue where he preached and reasoned with the Jews. We know by now that Paul's reasoning with the Jews meant an attempt on his part to persuade them that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Messiah. Paul's preaching was well received. The Ephesians urged him to stay on longer; however, Paul declined their invitation. He had his face set to Jerusalem.

He planned to participate in the Feast in Jerusalem, so he left Ephesus and sailed for Caesarea near Jerusalem. He left behind him in Ephesus Priscilla and Aquila. When Paul arrived in Caesarea he soon left there and went to salute the church. It would appear that the word the "church" refers to the church in Jerusalem. After Paul finished there he returned to Antioch where he had originally been sent out.

II. The Emergence of Apollos (18:24-28). These verses of scripture introduce us to one who became a very powerful preacher. Apollos, born in Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. The words "eloquent man" mean, probably, one educated and very capable of using words.

He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. He was on fire for the Lord. He taught diligently the things of the Lord. Yet, he was weak in that he knew only the baptism of John. This would seem to indicate that he had met John the Baptist. This was probably the meeting place of one called Tyranus. Paul probably used this place when Tyranus

was not using it. Aquila and Priscilla drew him aside after hearing him and instructed him in the way of the scripture more thoroughly.

Apollos decides to go back to Achaia and eventually back in Corinth. He was a man that God used in a great way. Verse 26 says that he was able to convince the Jews publicly by showing them in the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

III. Paul's Experiences in Ephesus (19:1-41).

1. Truth Extended

Soon after Paul's arrival in Ephesus he met certain men who had experienced the baptism of John. What this means is that they understood the preaching of John to be repentance and anticipation of the coming Messiah. When Paul met these men he asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit when they believed. They answered that they didn't know if there be the Holy Spirit. Paul recognized that the message that they had received, true as it was, was not the whole message.

They had not heard that Jesus the Christ had come. They did not know of Pentecost and the giving of the Holy Spirit. Paul informs them of this and they are baptized with the baptism of Jesus. The baptism of Jesus is the baptism of repentance, the baptism of the Messiah come, and the giving of the Holy Spirit. These verses of scripture give concern to many Christians because Paul laid hands upon them and then they received the Holy Spirit, spoke with languages, and prophesied. One must remember that the book of Acts is a book of beginnings.

2. Triumphs Experienced

The Gospel is active and powerful and moves without respect of persons. The Gospel is generally met with mixed responses. Some are made glad. Some are made sad, and some are made mad. Paul experienced mixed responses. We preached mightily, but many hardened their hearts and did not believe. Many spoke against the Gospel. When this happened Paul was forced to move from the synagogues to the school of Tyrannus. This was probably the meeting place of one called Tyranus. Paul probably used this place when Tyranus

was not using it.

Paul was blessed with the miraculous power of God. Verse twelve sometimes causes Christians concern. We see the power of God being transferred from the body of Paul into items he touched. These items had healing power. One must remember that God moves in ways he selects. It is a dangerous thing to conclude that God cannot do things in a particular way.

Along beside the miraculous power of God comes the false. Oftentimes when you find the genuine you'll find the false. A group of seven sons decided to fake it. They were going to gain notoriety by healing and calling out evil spirits in the name of Jesus. Their false faith was not adequate. The exercise of it turned in upon them when the evil spirit leaped upon them and injured them. This ultimately turned out in favor of Paul. When the Jews and the Greeks living in Ephesus heard of this they were afraid and the name of the Lord was magnified. Many believed, confessed, and showed openly their deeds.

It would appear that the believers in Ephesus had a revival. The Christian members of that new congregation came to confess openly their evil deeds. Those who had continued to practice sorcery brought their books and burned them. The worth of all that was burned was 50,000 silver pieces. If these silver pieces refer to drachma then this would be the equivalent of 138 years pay for a rural laborer.

3. Trouble Encountered (19:21-41)

When the Gospel begins to penetrate the hearts of individuals then the individuals will begin to penetrate the heart of the society in which they live. This is what happened in Ephesus. The preaching of the Gospel had struck down some of the traditional elements of the Ephesian society. For example, the man named Demetrius was a silversmith who made shrines for Diana. With the coming of the Gospel and the conversion of the Ephesians, they no longer wanted shrines to Diana. This struck at the very heart of the livelihood of Demetrius. Demetrius stirred up others in opposition to what was happening.

There's always opposition to the changing power of the Gospel. The

By Tommy Tutor, Pastor

First, Holy Springs

Acts 2:1-4; 14:17a; 37:39; 41:42

Christ has established his church, ascended back to heaven, and he has instructed his disciples to tarry in Jerusalem for power. They have obeyed. They are together praying and sharing. The only activity is the election of Matthias to replace Judas as a disciple.

I. Empowered With New Personal Strength (Acts 2:1-4)

The disciples and band of believers have had a traumatic experience in the cross event. The following resurrection of Jesus had brought new hope, but they needed power to build up their inner spiritual strength. This was accomplished by a sequence of events on the day of Pentecost.

First, Luke suggests a new day has come — a new dispensation. "When the day of Pentecost was fully come" notes the end of an old and the beginning of a new day. This was marked by the coming of the Holy Spirit. Note the terminology used to describe this. "The sound of a rushing mighty wind" Luke uses to announce the coming of the Holy Spirit.

In John 3:5-8, Pneuma occurs both for wind and spirit. Wind and breath are associated together in Scripture. Breath is used as a synonym for life. Spirit and life are two words for one thing. Therefore, Luke is noting the life (Spirit) of God has come to live in the redeemed. "Filled the house" where the believers were. They were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Now these believers had been converted by the work of the Holy Spirit. The new thing on Pentecost was the Holy Spirit came to live in them permanently.

"There appeared upon them cloven tongues like as of fire." Notice Luke's specific words, not a wind, but a sound. Here he notes "tongues like as of fire,"

Gospel changes people and people then change their habits and practices. The evil man who dispenses pornographic literature does not want people converted. The man who sells drugs does not want his buyers converted. The man who is involved in any evil or illegal activity objects to the Gospel. Genuine converts leave ungodly, unrighteous activities and join the righteous, godly way of God.

not fire. He is using tangible concepts to describe intangible facts. Fire had long been a Jewish sign of God's presence (Exodus 3:2; Deuteronomy 5:4).

The fire is a symbol of a quick, triumphant energy which transforms the believers into Christ's likeness. There are two sides to this emblem. First, there is the destructive — purifying. The Holy Spirit turns away the destructive power of sin. And, second, there is the creative. The Holy Spirit reproduces Christ's life in the believer. John the Baptist had said of Jesus, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

The second event which brought new spiritual strength was speaking in untaught languages. The disciples begin to speak languages which they had not learned (v. 4). This was a word of the Holy Spirit. The sound of the wind had brought the mass of people where the disciples were, and now the message was given in the many languages of the people present. The Spirit of God had descended upon Jesus at his baptism to give validity to his message. Now the Holy Spirit is doing the same for Christ's followers.

Many have thought that the confusion of tongues at Babel was counterbalanced here at Pentecost. Thus the speaking with other tongues by the witnesses of the Mediator celebrates the resurrection of the unity buried at Babel. The speaking of the languages of the world pointed to the fact that the gospel was for the world. The gift of tongues on Pentecost was one of the miraculous gifts of the apostolic church and as such, together with the other miraculous gifts, served its purpose of attesting the presence of the Spirit at a time when such attestation was needed.

The third event which brought new inward strengths was the fact that everyone heard in his own language (v. 6). In verses 9-11, the many different nationalities present are listed. This, indeed, was a miracle that so many different people did hear in their own language.

II. Empowered To Share Boldly (Acts 2:14-17a)

This is the first public apology for the defense of Christianity. Peter had been a Galilean fisherman. Now he stands as the spokesman for Christ's

followers, and speaks in their defense. In verses 16-21, Peter explains the miracle. He ascribes inspiration to Joel, and interprets Joel 2:28-32, as being fulfilled on Pentecost. The idea of drunken jargon becomes even blasphemous when Peter states the reality back of this speaking with foreign tongues. The third hour corresponds to our 9:00 a.m. In verses 30-33, Peter explains the coming of the Holy Spirit and these accompanying events are in fulfillment of Christ's promise to them. Then in verses 32-39, Peter interprets Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the promised Messiah. This new found inward strength is expressing itself in new boldness and insight.

III. Empowered To Convince The World Of Its Need (Acts 2:37-39)

The Holy Spirit's coming on Pentecost made available convicting power to sinners. These men in verse 37, were under conviction. The word "pricked" is interesting. Homer notes, "The indenting of the earth by horses hoofs is the picture in this world." Thus the Holy Spirit indents the heart and spirit of the lost when the gospel is preached.

Peter's sermon consisted of law (sin) and the gospel (sin's remedy). "What shall we do?" reflects three things in the lives of these. First, they are confessing their guilt. Second, they are confessing their helplessness. And, third, they are submitting to guidance from the apostles.

Peter's response offered two things if they believed and received. First, there was forgiveness. And, second, there was new life in person of Holy Spirit.

IV. Empowered To Live In Unity (Acts 2:41-42)

The preaching of the gospel in power is necessary. But also the demonstration of the gospel through living in unity is important. God add 3,000 souls to the church on Pentecost, but they needed a unifying power to rightly live out their new-found life in Christ. The following principles brought unity to their lives:

1. They continued steadfastly — right loyalty.
2. They honored apostles' doctrines — right authority.
3. They shared in fellowship — right love.
4. They shared in breaking of bread — right worship.